



HEALTH INSPECTIONS

## Students report new residence inspections

Process has been in place for years: Residence Services

Alex Migdal

NEWS EDITOR - @ALEXEM

Students living in University of Alberta residences are reporting a new set of inspections following allegations of unsanitary living conditions in HUB Mall, but Residence Services is claiming the inspections have been in place for years.

"It says they're quarterly, but I've lived on campus for the last eight years and I've never had anything like this before."

MILDRED LAU
EAST CAMPUS VILLAGE RESIDENT

Notices of "quarterly health and safety" inspections started appearing on the doors of residences in mid-February, and residents are claiming they've never seen the inspections until recently.

But Doug Dawson, executive director of Ancillary Services, said the inspections have always been in place, with a one-year hiatus leading up to February 2012 due to staffing issues.

The inspections occur in all residences except Campus St. Jean, Lister and Michener Park. They involve a thorough review of the entire unit, Dawson said, as opposed to typical check-in and check-out inspections, which focus on the student's bedroom. In addition, they're meant to occur every three months.

"It says they're quarterly, but I've lived on campus for the last eight years and I've never had anything like this before," said student Mildred Lau, a resident in East Campus Village for the past three years.

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ART **PREVIEW** 



DAN MCKECHNIE

#### Big Foldy Painting of Death explores mortality

Andrea Ross

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

At six feet tall and 127 feet long, artist Ian Forbes' painting The Big Foldy Painting of Death is a tremendous work, both in stature and in style.

Inspired by a series of books and created specifically for installation at Edmonton's own Latitude 53 art gallery, Forbes' painting wraps around the entire space, creating a panoramic view with both the beginning and end

of the painting reconnecting in one spot. An effort he equates to "a long distance race," Forbes began the painting in November of 2011, tracking his progress all the while on his blog.

Forbes has long had a passion for large, continuous works, and was inspired to create a large-scale painting of his own after he discovered some accordion fold art books at a store in Grand Prairie several years ago.

Through accumulating sketches and doodles in the compact but

expandable space of the accordion fold books, Forbes was inspired to translate this concept to canvas. Due to a lack of space in his studio, he had to roll up the end as he went, unable to see the entire finished product until its installation. Having to continue without being able to go back created huge variation in the work, with subdued themes and colours in the first half, and a darker mood thereafter.

PLEASE SEE **PAINTING •** PAGE 18

#### **gateway**

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#### colophon

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TREASURED TRINKETS A new exhibit in the lobby of the Human Ecology building explores the meaning of souvenirs collected around the world. JULIANNA DAMER

#### streeters

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY April Hudson + Alex Migdal



Andison Chan ENGINEERING N

"I worked for my parents

for three summers

as a waiter. "

Julia Tang ARTS I

"I've never had a bad summer job. I've worked at Taste of Edmonton. It's fun, but gets really hot sometimes." As you may be aware, many students are looking for summer jobs.

WE ASKED...

## What's been your worst summer job?



Taylor Muller SCIENCE I

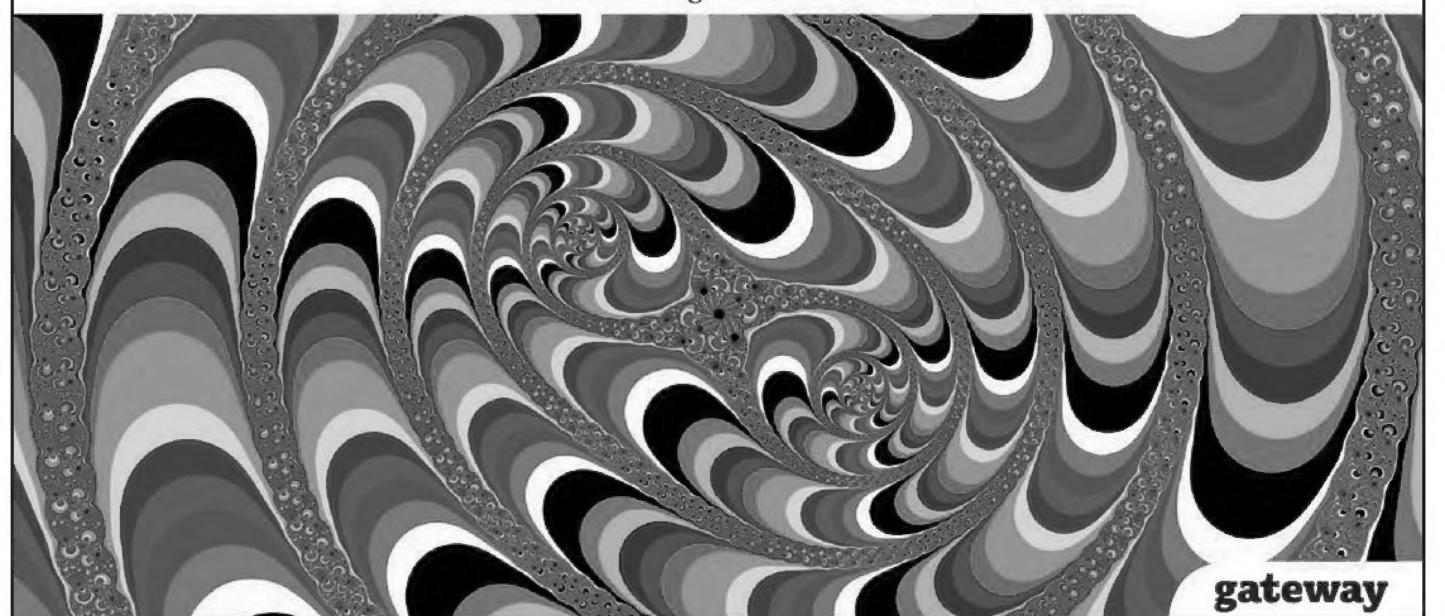
"I've never really had a summer job. All my jobs have been really good, so I guess my worst summer job yet is not finding one."



Adam Anderson ENGINEERING IV

"College Pro Painters. It was just the same thing every day."

The Edge... there is no honest way to explain it because the only people who really know where it is are the ones who have gone over. - HUNTER S. THOMPSON



We aren't that crazy here at the Gateway, but we try to toe the edge at times. The year may be over, but there's still summer issues and next year to volunteer at. Come out to the third floor of SUB to find out how, or check us out at www.thegatewayonline.ca.



#### Dean of Science looks back at 10 years of leadership

**Alex Migdal** 

NEWS EDITOR ■ @ALEXEM

Gregory Taylor has a love-hate relationship with ties.

He's never enjoyed wearing them, but has to accept them as part of his position. So he figures he might as well have fun with them.

Stashed in a corner closet space of his office is a myriad of colourful science ties — some depict a replicating DNA strand, while others are emblazoned with flashy holiday themes. There's even an ominous maroon tie that depicts the deadly bacteria anthrax.

Every tie has a story behind it, timestamps throughout the nearly 10 years that Taylor has spent as dean of the Faculty of Science. It's no surprise then that when Taylor isn't sporting one of his trademark ties, people notice.

"There's this one year where I didn't wear an immediately recognizable science tie to convocation," Taylor recalls. "A student stopped me after shaking my hand and accepting her degree and asked me, 'Why aren't you wearing one of those funky ties?""

With all his talk about ties, it's easy to forget that Taylor is at the helm of the largest post-secondary as personable and down-to-earth. faculty in the province — but not for long. On June 30, Taylor will step down from his position, capping off a 10-year tenure that has seen striking growth in the Faculty of Science.

One of the most obvious successes is the very building Taylor's office is situated in — the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS). His spacious glasswalled office offers a spectacular view of Quad, partially obscured by window shades that raise and lower automatically depending on the sun's intensity.

"When I started 10 years ago, planes were crashing into buildings in the United States, and governments were curtailing a lot of spending, and investments in infrastructure were not being done," Taylor says.

"When the building was going

up, there were times when I would stop and look at what's going on and say, 'How did we ever think we could pull this off?' ... When I make that observation to others, I say, 'It doesn't matter now, because we did pull it off.'"

Indeed, Taylor has pulled off a number of achievements as Dean of Science. During his tenure, research funding has increased by more than \$30 million, while international undergraduate enrolment has increased by 83 per cent.

In addition, more than 100 new professors have been recruited, while the number of undergraduate and graduate degrees granted has increased by 28 per cent and 66 per cent respectively.

table in his office, a joke present from an alumnus.

Still, things haven't been easy for Taylor. Over the past two years, he's been forced to cut 55 faculty and administrative positions due to budget shortfalls.

"It's hard for me to look at some of the difficult decisions you make and say, 'I would love to do that again.' When you have to cut something, it doesn't necessarily make you feel stronger," Taylor admits.

"But it is a competitive world, and I think by virtue of the way our governments have supported education in Alberta, and the way we've managed the challenges, I think it's allowed us to grow in prominence relative to our peers."

"There's this one year where I didn't wear an immediately recognizable science tie to convocation. A student stopped me after shaking my hand and accepting her degree and asked me, 'Why aren't you wearing one of those funky ties?""

DEAN, FACULTY OF SCIENCE

But Taylor doesn't seem overly concerned with his achievements — in fact, co-workers describe him

He's reputed for his office quirks, including occasionally walking barefoot and bringing his dog Petri to the office. There's also a popular office tale about Taylor and a slew of paper airplanes landing on the atrium of CCIS shortly after it opened.

"I was in a conversation with somebody from Facilities and Operations, and they said, particularly with the (official) opening coming up, 'We'll have to get a lift in and move those (paper airplanes)," Taylor recalls.

"And I asked, 'Why would you do that?' They're not harming anything. On top of that, if you take them away, they'll just get replaced the next day with new ones."

As a result, the paper airplanes still teeter on the CCIS atrium across Taylor's office, while a book on paper airplanes lies on a coffee

Difficult decisions might still be in store for the Faculty of Science, with the provincial government's projected three-year funding increases falling short of what's needed.

But Taylor doesn't let the uncertainty affect him. Instead, he smiles when he looks back at his favourite memory as dean.

It turns out he has 10,000 of them — the number of undergraduate students he'll have seen graduated by the end of his tenure — who Taylor will greet at the end of their degrees always wearing, of course, one of his science ties on stage.

"You don't remember each and every one of them, but the convocation is such a wonderful part of being a dean," Taylor says.

"Students come and spend anywhere from four plus years working with you, and it's a major life challenge. I get to shake their hands and see the smiles on their faces at the end of it. If I had to pick my favourite thing, that would be it."





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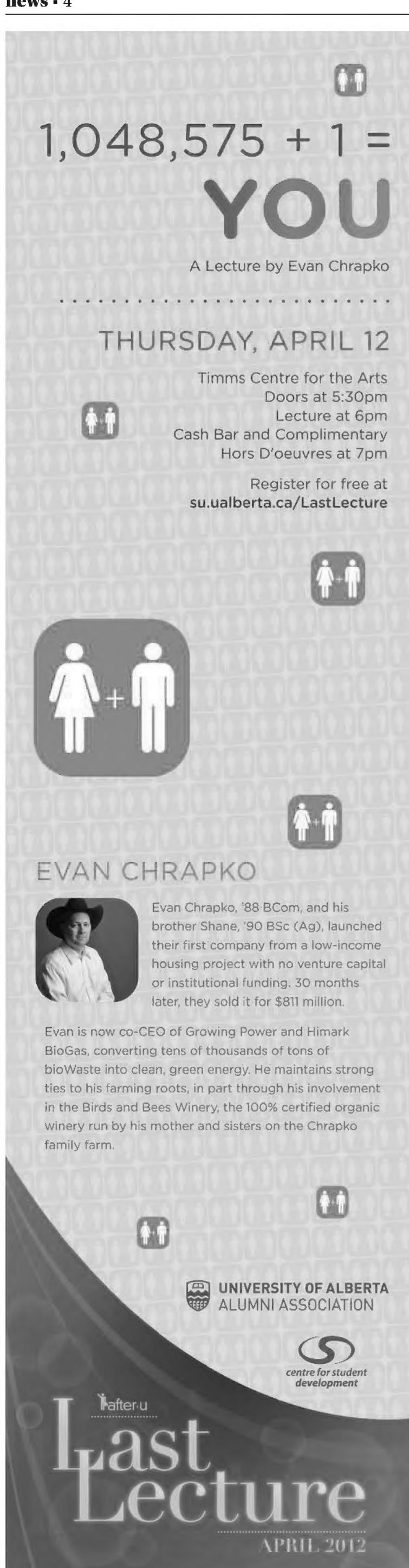
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#### Cuts in agriculture funding a concern for U of A research

**Piper Whelan** 

A University of Alberta dean says that recognizing the importance of agricultural research is a growing challenge, following \$309 million in cuts over three years announced to Agriculture and Agri-Foods Canada (AAFC) in this year's federal budget.

John Kennelly, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences (ALES), says the amount of funding for agricultural research has declined in recent years relative to the need for funding — a trend apparent in this year's budget.

"Canadians are part of the global community, and we have a responsibility and an opportunity to do our part to help feed the world. In your lifetime, that's going to be one of the major challenges facing society," Kennelly said.

The budget reduction represents a 10 per cent cut to Agriculture Canada's funding. Further details of the budget cut will be released in May, giving producers a better idea of its impact.

"Just to put it in perspective," Kennelly said, "Agriculture Canada accounts for something between 30 and 40 per cent of all the agricultural research in the country. Of course, any cut to that national effort is bound to impact agricultural research across the country."

These cuts come at a time when world leaders in agriculture need to look towards increasing food production to feed a world population that will possibly increase by billions in the next 50 years, Kennelly said.

"That's a huge challenge — to actually meet the needs of that number of people so that there is food, and at the same time to actually reduce the environmental footprint of agriculture."

That makes it a doubly difficult accomplishment, Kennelly said, when it's not just about increasing the food supply, but also about paying attention to the environmental footprint of agriculture.

Kennelly said he hopes the federal



government will recognize the importance of research advancements in meeting this challenge, especially in terms of food security.

"Canada has an opportunity to actually grow the economy by increasing its ability to produce food, and at the same time, do a good thing by helping those countries that are not self-sufficient at the present time to meet their food requirements," Kennelly said.

The challenge of feeding the world and developing more sustainable practices, Kennelly argues, provides promise to young people looking to get involved in all aspects of agriculture in order to position Canada as a global leader in agriculture.

"It's a very exciting time for people that are in agriculture and food, because it's going to be one of the great challenges that we face over

that growing world population," Kennelly said.

"For people who aspire to make a difference in life, there is no better place to do it than to get involved in some aspect of agriculture."

Patrick Girard, media relations for AAFC, said they have already started to work on implementing the measures outlined in this year's budget.

"AAFC is focusing on changes that will continue to drive the future prosperity of our farmers and the agriculture industry," Girard said.

He added that many changes will improve the way AAFC works, making it easier for farmers and industry to do business with the government and in the marketplace, although he did not specify how.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

#### Faculty of Medicine recruits new dean

**Rachel Singer** 

**NEWS STAFF** 

A new dean is set to take the helm of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry following a rocky year that saw former dean Philip Baker resign over allegations of plagiarism.

Douglas Miller, a cardiologist and former dean of the Medical College of Georgia in the United States, is set to begin his term at the U of A in July, more than a year after Baker was accused of plagiarising a convocation speech to a class of medical school graduates.

A graduate of McGill Medical School, Miller says his knowledge and experience will lead to effective leadership that will allow the faculty to thrive.

He also says he'll bring a measure of stability to the position, and plans to get started by listening to the ideas of students, faculty and staff about their vision for the faculty.

"I certainly want to take the pulse of the university and the community, and (make) sure that I understand their aspirations for the (faculty)," Miller said.

"I consider medical and dental education to be the core activity of the medical and dental faculty, and I want to talk to students ... to get their views on the student experience, and to try to be sure that we can always keep their point of view top of mind as we go forward."

"I certainly want to take the pulse of the university and the community, and (make) sure that I understand their aspirations for the (faculty)."

DOUGLAS BAKER DEAN OF MEDICINE

Miller says he found the U of A appealing because he wanted to lead a medical faculty that was part of a large research-intensive university.

"I believe that increasingly medical education is enhanced by collaborations with the other faculties

of the university, such as social sciences and public health and engineering," he said.

Miller plans to form a solid action plan that will help to advance what he sees as the three major components of a medical faculty — education, research and clinical service.

Even though it will be Miller's first time working in Alberta, he says he's ready for the challenge.

"It's a great foundation, and I think that the people I've met with are certainly committed to continue moving the university forward."

"There is strong leadership in the President's Office," Miller added, "and I have met a number of engaged and very outstanding faculty. I think the combination of good leadership and good faculty brings the best student experience."

Over the past year, Miller has been on sabbatical working at the Association of American Medical Colleges. His research there has included focusing on evaluating the effects of economic and governmental policy changes on medical student career decisions.

#### Long-term residents unaware of quarterly inspections

Residence Services claims student residents may be confused by quarterly health and safety inspections due to a name change

**INSPECTIONS •** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A *Gateway* article published on Feb. 15 outlined various unsanitary conditions affecting students living in HUB Mall, and included criticism from students on the inspections of units. Lau said she received a notice of inspection for her East Campus Village unit on Feb. 16.

Part of the quarterly health and safety inspection notice states: "Living in an unsanitary and unsafe condition is against University Community Standards and therefore is considered a breach of lease, which may lead to termination of tenancy."

Dawson dismissed claims that the inspections were related to the allegations.

"The relationship to the story, I'm sorry, is coincidental," he said.

But Chelsea Butler, a two-year resident of East Campus Village, said it would be a "pretty wild coincidence" if that were the case.

"Especially for them to call it quarterly when it's never happened before," she added. "It seemed like they were sending a message that they were taking it more seriously now."

Butler also received a quarterly health and safety inspection notice in late February, her first one in the two years she's lived in East Campus Village.

The report Butler received following the inspection was thorough, she noted, including a recommendation to clean the inside of her oven.

"I'm glad they are starting to do it, because it'll be a good way for them to avoid the conditions



HUB CRACKDOWN A five-year resident of HUB said this is the first time she's received a notice of quarterly inspection. FILE PHOTO: MATT HIRJI

that are happening in HUB," Butler said.

When asked about long-term residents who claimed never

having undergone the inspection, Dawson said the issue was likely due to a name change, although he was unsure of any previous names. Student Miranda Woofenden said she's kept all of her notices from Residence Services throughout her five years of living in HUB Mall, and was unable to find any notice that matched the description of the quarterly health and safety inspection.

The first time Woofenden heard of the inspection was when she received a notice of her own in late February. Regardless of its goal, Woofenden doesn't believe the inspections will be of any use.

 "I'm glad (Residence Services) are starting to do (inspections), because it'll be a good way for them to avoid the conditions that are happening in HUB."

> CHELSEA BUTLER RESIDENT, EAST CAMPUS VILLAGE

"As it stands, I don't think these inspections serve much of a purpose, and will be irrelevant until (Residence Services) takes the initiative to enforce and standardize their expectations in terms of cleanliness and procedures and consequences," Woofenden said.

But Residence Services is always looking for ways to improve the student experience, Dawson said, noting there's an "urgent" need for the university and student residents to co-operate.

"We do need students to get the right information in terms of cleanliness and keeping their units tidy. It makes it difficult," Dawson said. "We don't want a program of entering these suites every week. That's in nobody's best interest."



#### Support staff: The unsung heroes of post-secondary education.

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#### Professor competes for Senate seat

**Jonathan Faerber** 

NEWS STAFF • @JONFAERBER

Ian Urquhart has a problem with partisan politics.

The University of Alberta political science professor says he's fed up with the federal government's failing environmental stewardship and escalating partisanship — and he's sick of feeling powerless about these problems.

That's why he's running as an independent nominee for the Senate, in the first senate election since 2004.

If elected, Urquhart is poised to become Canada's third independent senator, and only the fourth independent member in Parliament — an exception among the 413 seats combined between the Senate and the House of Commons.

But with nine other candidates in the running, and only three spots available in the elections, Urquhart faces an uphill struggle to win a possible seat. As a scholar who deals with politics on a daily basis, however, Urquhart is hardly

blind to the challenge — in fact, he relishes it.

"I joke that I'm a bad political scientist, because one thing political scientists know is how important party organizations are for elections," he says.

"At the same time, I'm really comfortable with (running as an independent), because I can listen to your idea and not reject it simply because you're a conservative or a liberal, as we do too often."

Urquhart, in fact, has taken the joke to his website, blogging that he would fail to get Stephen Colbert's vote after the television personality recently condemned party-less politics.

On his blog, Urquhart notes the importance of looking beyond party lines, and stresses the need to maintain non-partisanship in the Senate, where he hopes to represent Albertans on issues such as the environment and educational reform.

Alberta holds elections for Albertan seats on the Senate, and passes the results as a recommendation to the federal government. How-

ever, the final decision lies with the Prime Minister, who is individually responsible for appointing nominees to the Senate.

But Urquhart's personal blog so far touches on his conversation with Lisa, a middle-aged Calgarian who has never voted in her life.

At the end of the encounter — which Urquhart terms the most important of his campaign so far — she agreed to participate in the upcoming elections.

"I was just about this much off the ground after that woman told me that," says Urquhart.

Whatever the outcome, Urquhart says he'll still value his work at the U of A — where he won an undergraduate teaching award in 2007 — for the opportunity to continue making an impact on students.

"At the end of the day, that's the stuff I'm going to take away from this," Urquhart says.

"Even if you just affect a couple of people, even if you just get a few people to think, that'll be rewarding enough.

"As a political scientist, I couldn't ask for anything more than that."



UNIQUELY URQUHART Ian Urquhart aims to get a nomination for the Senate. SUPPLIED

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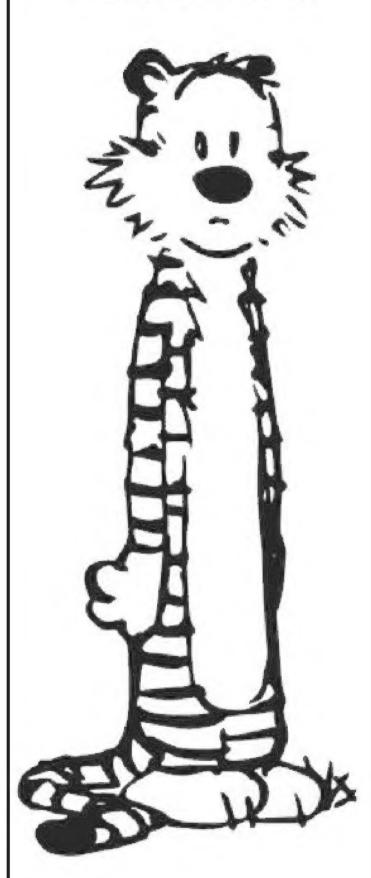
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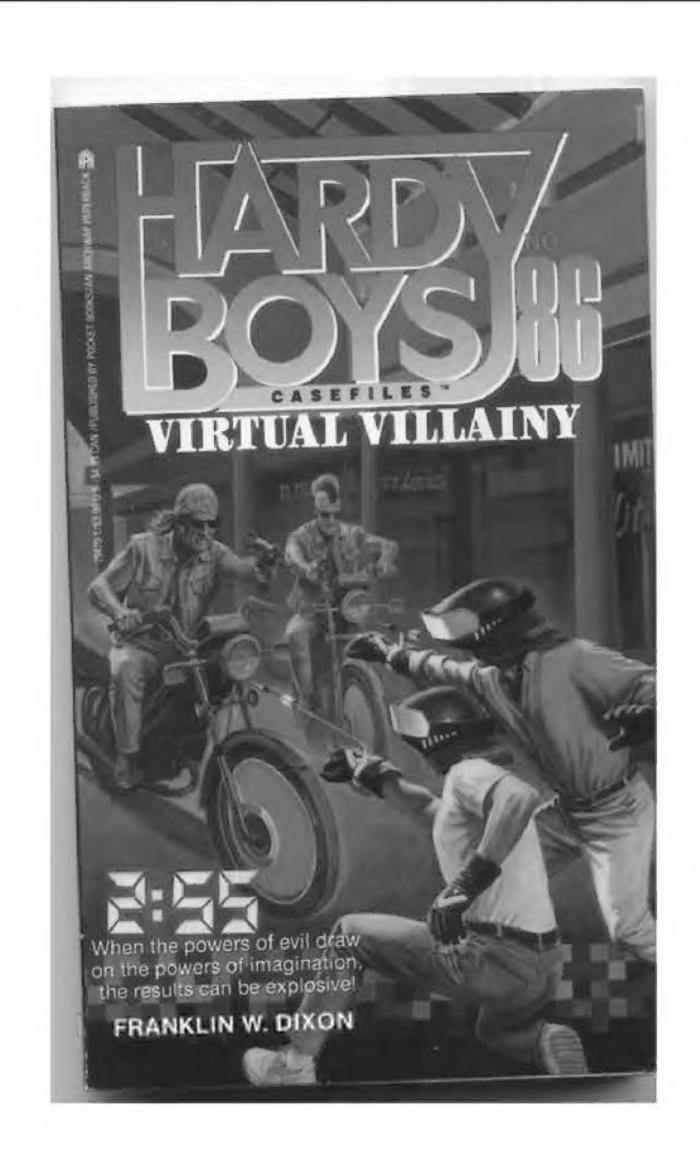
Cons: Imaginary. Can't distinguish whether someone's opening a can of tuna or pineapple chunks. Never mauls who he's supposed to maul.

## gateway

YOUR GATEWAY TO THE NOODLE INCIDENT

COMICS MEETINGS ARE MONDAYS AT 5 P.M. IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/COMICS



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JULIANNA DAMER

## Students take giant creative steps in latest design exhibit

**Julianna Damer** 

NEWS STAFF = @JULIANNADAMER

Graduation is a giant step for students, making it a fitting title for the University of Alberta's design program's graduate exhibit.

Giant Steps, this year's edition of the program's annual graduate exhibit, is being featured in the Fine Arts Building gallery, April 3-14.

The 26 graduate students whose works are showcased major in either industrial design or visual communication design. As such, the creations displayed include tables, book, photographs and websites.

According to industrial design graduate student Iwona Faferek, this year's title for the exhibit was inspired by jazz artist John Coltrane's album *Giant Steps*.

"He brought jazz to a different level, to a higher level," Faferek said. "That's what we want to do with design. We're ending this point, and now we are going to bring it up to this whole other level and take that and embrace it and run with it."

Most students start planning for the exhibit in September. With the added pressure of an industry night — where professionals in the design field view the students' work at the gallery — the graduates are inclined to create memorable pieces.

"We should be the piranhas that attack them and come and get jobs (from) them," Faferek said.

While established designers visit the exhibit, the display is also an opportunity for the greater university population to see the work of students.

Not many galleries in Edmonton showcase design exhibits, Faferek said, and it's a rare opportunity to see work of this kind.

"There's some great furniture and interactive stuff," Faferek said.

"There's a table that changes colour. It has thermo-chromatic paint so it changes based on heat. It turns from black to clear and it reveals certain messages underneath the paint."

Design students also have the opportunity to work with other departments at the U of A, including creating posters for the drama department's plays.

"I think part of it is a little bit selfish that after four years we can just put it all out there and put the flag in the ground and say, 'This is what we've done,'" said design graduate Matthew Satchwill.

"For our own sanity, it is nice to be able to see some progress and to share that, and to prove to other people that we have actually been doing something for all this time that we have been working hard."

More information about the *Giant Steps* exhibit can be found at giantsteps2012.com.

## Animal enclosures designed by U of A students in Valley Zoo partnership

**Zaineb Hussein** 

NEWS STAFF

University of Alberta students in the Department of Animal Health are building African jungles for lions and Arctic environments for sea lions — right in the middle of Edmonton.

The Edmonton Valley Zoo and the department are in the second year of a partnership that allows U of A students to create designs for future zoo animal enclosures.

None of the students' design plans have been implemented yet, but the Valley Zoo is expected to move quickly with its \$50 million renovation plan recently approved by city council.

Milton Ness, the head veterinarian at the Valley Zoo, said the partnership is an ideal opportunity for students to apply their education to a real-life situation.

"What the students are doing is not only thinking about what the design should look like, but about the materials you should use in it, where you can get them and how much they cost," Ness explained.

The students also focus on the native habitat of the animal, and include those details into their design, Ness said.

"If you look at a zoo that's built in the 1950s, it's very different than a zoo enclosure built in 2012," Ness said, citing the new Arctic shore exhibit as an example.

"In the past, we displayed an animal, and people learned to understand the animal. Now, what we are trying to do is not only create a habitat for the animal, but talk about the environment of the animal."

Students were able to offer their ideas for the zoo's new Arctic exhibit, Ness said, which led to a special moment during its opening.

"When we just opened Arctic Shores exhibit on March 17, we had about 600 Inuits that lived in the Edmonton area," Ness recalled. "One of the Inuit elders came as part of the grand opening ceremony, and when she walked on the site and got a full view of the display, she said, 'This reminds me of home.'"

Understanding the importance of preserving the natural environments of animals is important for students to recognize, Ness said, as it will improve the quality of life for the animals.

As such, the project becomes a practical and personal experience for students, Ness said, while giving

him the chance to "understand the leaders of the next generation."

The students are not the only people reaping the benefits from the program, Ness added — they've also inspired him to become a better educator and veterinarian.

"What the students are doing is not only thinking about what the design should look like, but about the materials you should use in it, where you can get them and how much they cost."

MILTON NESS HEAD VETERINARIAN, EDMONTON VALLEY ZOO

"It continuously challenges me to evaluate everything I do with all the animals, so I learn as much as the students do, bottom line," Ness said.

"I'm the veterinarian that's in charge of veterinary care, so this just makes me a better veterinarian. Hopefully, that translates to better care for the animals under my care, which leads to a better life."

#### Lab set to be coldest in Canada | Mustard seed a possible

**Victoria Pham** 

NEWS WRITER

A University of Alberta physicist's laboratory is set to become the coldest place in Canada thanks a new piece of specialized equipment.

Within the next few weeks, John Davis' lab in the basement of the Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Science (CCIS) will house the 10-foot tall structure, which includes an ultra-low temperature dilution refrigerator, vibration resistant columns and other customized parts.

Davis' research focuses on nanoscale and low-temperature physics. The refrigeration equipment he is expecting in April will allow him to combine both — at a glacial temperature of about 0.0007 Kelvin or -273 C.

"We will be able to measure new and different kinds of quantum properties (at these temperatures)," Davis said. "Much of the modern technology in the world is based around quantum mechanical properties, like computers and phone chargers."

It's essential to study quantum mechanical properties at low temperatures before applying them to everyday life, Davis said.

"That's the goal — you find something new at really low temperatures, study it, really understand its properties, and then you hope to understand it so well you figure out how to replicate and control it at room temperature."

By studying electrical flow at extremely low temperatures, Davis hopes to better understand quantum mechanics and make his findings applicable to the public.

One example is in the study of the



ICE, ICE, BABY John Davis is preparing his lab for low temperatures. DAN MCKECHNIE

superconductor, a 100 per cent energy efficient device that can bear no resistance and no energy loss.

"(It) would absolutely transform the energy consumption of the world," Davis said. "The problem is, (the superconductor is) one of the phenomenon that we can only harness in low temperatures. We have not been able to make a room temperature super conductor."

A key feature in the set-up of Davis' lab is that vibrations have to be minimized in order to reduce heat as much as possible.

"The concrete around where the fridge will be placed is different than the foundation of this building, so if you were to jump up and down or make a noise, the vibrations wouldn't affect the equipment," Davis said.

"There are lots of levels of vibration suppression involved, because if I vibrate something, it heats up. So right around where you want it to get really cold, we have to minimize vibrations."

The ability to explore forms of magnetic cooling will be another distinction of Davis' lab.

"This piece of equipment can go to both low temperatures and have a high magnetic field," Davis said. "This allows us to explore quantum mechanics in a way not seen anywhere else in Canada."

In doing this, Davis hopes people can experience the world of particle movement around them.

"You don't experience the quantum world around you because it's too hot," Davis said.

"All of the effects are washed out by temperature. So when we hit these very low temperatures in experiments, we can actually reveal all of these quantum properties."

## Mustard seed a possible new food preservative

**Rachel Singer** 

NEWS STAFF

A University of Alberta student has discovered a compound derived from a mustard seed that could potentially be used as a natural food preservative.

Christina Engels, a doctoral student in the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Sciences, has found that sinapic acid, a natural compound that comes from oil meal — the leftovers of pressed mustard seed oil — has antimicrobial properties against a variety of food pathogens and food spoilage bacteria.

# "I really believe that in plants there are activities that we are looking for in food applications — for example, antimicrobial or anti-oxidant activities."

CHRISTINA ENGELS
U OF A DOCTORAL STUDENT

As a result, sinapic acid is able to limit the growth of many microorganisms.

Mustard oil is commonly used for cooking, but it can also be converted into biodiesel, a renewable source of fuel.

However, Engels focused on finding a method that would make it easy to extract sinapic acid from the oil meal.

"Normally, when we extract plants, we get an extract that has

many compounds it in, and it's very hard to find what the active component actually is and then find a method to quantify it," Engels said.

"The cool thing in the method that I proposed ... is a process called alkaline hydrolysis, which was able to selectively extract sinapic acid."

Engels centred her research on the by-product of mustard seed oil — the oil meal. By only using the oil meal instead of other parts of the plant that are intended for human consumption, Engels was able to extract sinapic acid in the most sustainable way possible.

Engels hopes her method of extraction will one day be used by industry to make sinapic acid a natural preservative in food products because of its natural antimicrobial properties.

"The ultimate goal is to use natural components that work as preservatives, and not to use synthetic ones," Engels said.

Engels will be defending her PhD in May, and plans to continue working on ways to extract natural antimicrobial compounds from plant or fruit sources.

"I really believe that in plants there are activities that we are looking for in food applications — for example, antimicrobial or anti-oxidant activities. But it's really hard to link it to one substance, and it is really not known which component is active," Engels said.

"I'm hoping that we can find methods, so that we can really scientifically link that one component to the activity and there is no doubt about it."



# Opinion

**Opinion Editor** 

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**Volunteer** 

Opinion meetings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

**EDITORIAL COMMENT** 

## Take the student experience into your own hands

IT'S BEEN ANOTHER ROUGH YEAR FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF Alberta as an institution. Staff cuts, funding from the provincial government that isn't enough, and controversy over Occupy protests and honorary degrees. And of course, with larger class sizes and shrinking faculty, there's the declining student experience to worry about.

But as I look back over my five years at the U of A, I realize that nothing much has changed. There has always been some type of controversy, either over plagiarizing deans or market modifiers. If you talk to a U of A alumnus from 20 years ago, I'm sure they will recall institutional controversies that took the spotlight during their time as well. In 1987, the university made the decision to limit enrolment to 25, 000 students. In March 1992, U of A students marched on the legislature to express their displeasure with provincial funding cuts. In 2003, the potential removal of the tuition cap became a major student issue. In addition, the Students' Union led a campout the same year in Quad to protest tuition increases by the BoG.

So there's controversy. The institution conyinues to struggle. The "student experience" is always an issue. But instead of criticizing from the back seat, you can do something about it.

Now, I'm not here just to tell you to simply get involved, because I'm sure you've all heard that before. But get involved as way to get what you want out of university. Take your student experience into your own hands. It's easy to criticize the institution that we attend for all its failings — and there are undoubtedly failings. But everyone, on an individual level, can make their personal student experience a positive one.

If a positive student experience for you means getting involved in student groups on campus, then get involved. If it means having personal relationships with professors, then take the initiative and get to know professors. I'm sure you'll find that if you actually approach professors, they'll be interested in helping you succeed.

If a positive student experience for you means meeting people and making connections, consider living in residence or joining a greek organization. If your positive experience means a job when you leave, then go to the career centre and find out how tomake this happen. If you want to help people, volunteer with a campus or regional organization for social justice. If you want to help students or learn about politics, get involved in the Students' Union. And of course, if you want to learn to write and think critically about your institution, volunteer for *The Gateway*.

When you first come to university, you're dazed and confused. It takes time to figure out how everything works here. But as you understand the environment, and all the opportunities this environment affords you, consider what you want to get out of your time at this institution. Make a list of things you want to do or accomplish and set out to do them. It sounds clichéd, but there really is something for everyone here. You just need to set out and find it.

University is a time to grow up. It's true — there's nobody to hold your hand through your degree. It's not a cake walk. There are institutional obstacles. Of course, small class sizes would help the student experience, but when you can't get that, or you can't get the dream class you wanted to take, or your program requires you take a seemingly irrelevant class, don't let it negatively impact your student experience. Forge out your own positive experience instead. Even having met and overcome institutional obstacles will be something you've learned from being here.

I liked being engaged in my campus community, but doing cheers in Quad isn't for everyone. The important thing is that whatever is for you, do it — and there is something. That's what will make your positive student experience. If you take matters into your own hands, you will have gained something after leaving university. I know I have.

Alexandria Eldridge
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

#### FUTURTORIAL COMMENT

## In memorium: the follies of youth

THEY'RE LETTING ME RUN THIS THING NEXT YEAR. IT SEEMS LIKE only yesterday that I was screwing around as a volunteer, writing about unicorn dicks and how badass beards are. But now apparently I have to grow up and take this thing seriously. That's what university is all about, right? Pick up the paper next year and see if it happens.

Ryan Bromsgrove INCOMING EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, 2012/13



ANTHONY GOERTZ

#### letters to the editor

#### Intimidation not the answer to racism

(Re: "Hate groups must be stamped out before they become established" by Dave S, March 28, 2012)

In Mr. David S' letter to The Gateway "Hate groups must be stamped out..." he demonstrates that he is no different than the hate group he wants to stamp out. In Mr. S's letter he states he would make "it so uncomfortable for these people to organize that they have no choice but to either quit or move elsewhere." So it appears Mr. S' would round up a posse and use hate, intimidation and harassment to silence people who, while in a posse, use hate, intimidation and harassment to disenfranchise people with superficial differences. Mr. S is as intolerant as the hate group Blood and Honor, but his intolerance is aimed at those holding viewpoints he finds offensive.

Mr. S' suggestion is completely unreasonable: his position is not to speak with the intolerant, to understand their viewpoints, to combat those viewpoints with well-reasoned argument and perhaps to change some of the individuals in the process. Mr. S' solution is to form a mob and use intimidation to run people out of the city.

With this logic how could we ever have freedom of speech, if every time we said something controversial, a menacing pack chases us until we could not be heard anymore?

There are better ways to address hate speech, and that is with more speech. The arguments against racism are so

powerful compared to the arguments for that there is no need for (violent) intimidation. Let's solve this peacefully by using well-reasoned positions to convince each other why we are correct, and in this way we become stronger because we understand why we believe the things we do.

There are plenty of poor beliefs in the world, but using intimidation to "stamp out" misguided ideas is not an answer any mature society would use; Mr. S grow up. Intimidation and harassment are violent actions that have no place here.

> Eric Enger SCIENCE IV

#### FROM THE WEB

#### City's problems are going to be somewhere

(Re: "Downtown renovations not

*simple,*" by Scott Fenwick, April 4) Funny thing is that downtown was  $the\,centre\,of\,the\,night life\,when\,Whyte$ Ave. was considered a dangerous and run-down area... back when Princess Theatre showed porn. When Whyte was revitalized, the problems moved north to downtown. There simply was not enough demand for two night life areas of the city. With the current rivitalization of downtown, the airport and 118 Ave. we may see similar problems in the future. We will always need an area for the poor, and might have too much nice space for the sprawling population. Ultimately the only solutions to produce gentrification are population growth and

demand for housing near the core.

As for the areas directly north and east of downtown... well. They house almost all the city's subsidized housing and homeless shelters. They will be the ghetto for a long time coming. We need to house the chronically homeless somewhere, and Alberta seems reluctant to provide long-term medical care for the addicted and mentally unstable.

"Brian"
VIA INTERNET

#### Blame apathy on the system

(Re: "Get Out the Vote campaign combats student apathy," by April Hudson, April 4)

Man, I cringed when I saw these mindless drones all cute with their T-shirts and righteous smiles, pacing down the line-up of the pizza party. Classic case of blaming the individual, in this case for their apathy, instead of the system that creates this sentiment.

"Yousef"
VIA INTERNET

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellousor otherwise hateful in nature and to publish letters online.

Letters should be no longer than 350 words.

#### The U of A has more important things that need regulating



**Opinion Staff**GROUP COMMENTARY

Students' Council decided that the SU should lobby the university to restrict smoking on campus last week. Here are some other ideas, while they're at it.

#### Darcy Ropchan

If the SU is going to start telling us what to do and how to live our lives, why don't they do something useful and get rid of library cellphone talkers.

If you've ever spent an extended period of time in the library, you've probably heard these idiots. They get a call on their cellphone, and instead of going outside and taking the call like a normal, rational functioning person would, they stay inside and continue on with their conversation — subjecting the rest of us to the torture of having to listen to their voice.

The worst part is that not only do we have to hear their stupid side of the conversation, but their cellphone is usually loud enough that everyone within a five-mile radius can hear the person on the other end of the line.

Something really needs to be done about this. Why wasn't this issue on any of the SU campaign platforms? I would much rather breath in the exhaled smoke breath of a thousand old smokers than have to sit next to a cellphone idiot in the library.

There needs to be a zero-tolerance



LOOK AT THESE DANGEROUS BADASSES But seriously, get the hell out of the way. You're blocking the door. And smoking a pipe is so last year. PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAN MCKECHNIE

policy towards these people. They should have police on every floor in the library. As soon as someone starts talking on their phone, they get tazed. And they get their cellphone taken away for a day. That'll show those idiots who's boss.

#### Joel Aspden

Here's a new rule worth lobbying for: don't stand in front of doors.

I get on the train every morning during rush-hour, and in no fewer than two stops, the thing's packed and I'm lodged in a corner. When it's time to get off at university station, a wall of immovable people blocks my way. I then have to shout my way out, pushing people aside as I lunge out of the door before it closes.

Jump ahead some hours to the train arriving at university station after class, and there's usually a considerable number of people getting off — as well as a gigantic horde of students getting on. The impatient mass rudely crowds the door, and upon realizing that there are the people getting off, awkwardly shuffles back to make a hole for them to escape.

When it comes to riding the LRT, people don't understand door courtesy. It makes them look stupid and slows everyone down. But this is merely the tip of iceberg.

The same thing happens in the corridors of our school. Every day I see people standing in front of lecture hall doors, making it almost impossible for people to leave their classes. Driven by their need to get to their perfect spot in the classroom, some people become roadblocks. Well, I've had enough.

It's an honest problem perpetuated by a lack of foresight in many people, and a solution is needed.

The SU needs to step up and start lobbying to make door-blocking an offense on campus. We may not be able to solve the LRT problem, but if we start at the university, the city may follow.

#### Adrian Lahola-Chomiak

Every morning, I take a shower, eat some breakfast, take the train to the university and then stand behind some oblivious pedestrian on the escalator. If the SU wants the university to tell us how to live, they may as well do everyone a service by forcing people to walk up the escalators in the morning.

Every time a loaded train stops at university station, some jerk has to slow down the flow of traffic by planting themselves on one side of the moving stairs with no regard for the 100 people who woke up a little hungover and who are subsequently

running late for their Wednesday morning class.

Although it's painfully obvious to most of us, there are some people who do not seem to understand that the escalator is just a set of moving stairs, not an amusement park ride. If you're not fit to walk up the stairs, you have no place on the escalator: there is an elevator just 10 feet away.

Now, I'm not calling for university "encouragement squads" armed with pepper spray and cattle prods... but that would be one way to get the job done. Nobody is going to be standing around when a group of goons dressed like riot cops show up shouting, "You citizen! Walk up those stairs." Unlike smoking outside, standing on the escalator during high traffic times is something that adversely impacts large groups of people, and I think it's time the Students' Union took it seriously.





Quebec students have been protesting tuition hikes that would take them from being the province with the lowest tuition, to being the province with the still lowest tuition. Freedom fighters, or ass of the year?

## gatewayopinion

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

on Liture and TREPARIEWAYORLINE Ci



#### Screw reality, I have cubes



Ryan
Bromsgrove
OPINION EDITOR

One year ago, I wanted to leave the world behind. This society wasn't made for people like me. I scoured the globe for a suitable land where I could start anew, away from civilization. But the solution was right in front of me all along: *Minecraft*.

In the blocky world of *Minecraft*, I am truly at peace. The rules are simple: punch a tree, turn it into a table and get to work building your own paradise. Land is generated as far as you'll ever be able to walk — at least several times the surface of the Earth — and there are no borders. You are free to explore the world and make it yours.

Yes, everything is cube-shaped. But after a while, there's a certain sense to slaughtering a blocky cow in order to cook and eat its meat to stave off hunger. Think about it. To get a real steak, you go to the supermarket, which magically has every cut you could want in stock. Where does all this meat come from? I have never seen a cow in the city or in the supermarket. In *Minecraft*, you're in control of your own sustenance; there's no mystery here. You have to work for your

cube-shaped food. That's an improvement over crappy real life.

Let's talk about living arrangements while we're at it. If you're like me, a student who just won't leave this university, you're probably crammed into an apartment — or worse, a dorm. Meanwhile, in Minecraft, I've built everything from medieval-style castles and underwater glass cities to one-to-one scale models of Roman monuments, all for my personal living pleasure. In this game, I have lived as a king, a Randian hero and an emperor. I don't think I need to ask which world delivers a pixellated kick to the socio-economic problems of the other.

# If you die in reality, you're gone for realsies. On the other hand, get hit by a stray arrow and fall off your tower in Minecraft, and you wake up in bed.

And speaking of those, there are no guns in *Minecraft*. At best, you can rig up a resource-heavy TNT cannon for stationary, unidirectional blasts — not exactly something you could murder people with. Not that there's any need to murder anyone. You can stick to single player or collaborate on

three

free

multiplayer — totally up to you. Nobody's around to force you to interact with anyone, perfect for people like me who never really understood the whole social interaction thing.

The sky really is the limit when it comes to this reality substitute. You have a vertical distance of 255 metres when it comes to building your masterpieces — more than anyone could ever really need. And if you get bored of that sky, you can build a portal to the hellish world of the Nether. It's got fire and everything. And zombie pigmen. Does real hell have zombie pigmen? No, just inferior, non-stop suffering.

It's true that *Minecraft* is full of zombies, skeletons and explosive creepers. But if you die in reality, you're gone for realsies. On the other hand, get hit by a stray arrow and fall off your tower in Minecraft, and you wake up in bed. That's one ridiculously cozy death.

Yeah, I'm done with real life. They have a way to put you inside computers now, right? I want that. I want to spend my days fighting zombies, mining ore and building hitherto unimagined feats of human ingenuity. Sure, it's not a perfect game. Sure, I wish they'd change the AI of the cats so that they'd stop jumping on my bed, and sure and you can argue it hasn't lived up to its potential — but its lived up to better than reality. Cubes and all. This is where I belong.

## #3LF

Got something that you need to get off your mind? Either email us at threelinesfree@gateway.ualberta.ca, tweet @threelinesfree, or message us at www.thegatewayonline.ca/threelinesfree

Dear Athro/Arch girl with the purpleblue scarf, blue rasta hat and heels, you are beautiful and one day I will gain the courage to talk to you, I hope that idiot is not your BF Old people are the worst. Like this one guy I know. He cuts everything and never lets anyone have fun.

Lonely math girl, the magic eightball is in your court. If you shake it and concentrate you can send a message to my magic eight-ball. Or stop by and say Hi.

It's SO frustrating when the grade you receive on a project doesn't NEARLY reflect the amount of time, energy, work, and passion you put into it. I'd like to take this opportunity to relay a message to my professor: FUUCCK YOOUU!!!

I told you to do what you had to But really, a 3LF apology doesn't make up for anything. Concerning the nasty couple in CAB that make out all the time. It's not jealousy, it's just disgusting. a free mind is hard to find

I can't belive the end of the year is here. What a crazy ride it's been over the last eight months. I'm thankful for all the friends and new experiences I've made. Just kidding I fucking hate all of you.

It's bullshit that we still have to work in partners in university. I'm too old for this shit When will profs learn that I don't like anyone and I don't want to talk to people.

Dustin Chelen, you always hug everyone in the room except me.

\*Sadface\*

Why are SU Council Meetings so

long?
pizza party at my place
Can April just end already?

KTHNXBAI.

To the couple in the Ag-For - Sub pedway, get a fucking room!

Here's a cost-saving tip: Let's pay the University president and other high-up admins the same as professors. Do they really deserve any more?

hate smokers who smoke outside rutherford and throw smoke on pass by

TAKE MY WORDS THE WAY I'M
TAKING YOURS! Yeaaahhhhhh

why did i even come here glow in the dark quarters holy shit

to the max
I'm gonna take up smoking just to

spite the su spicy peanuts

Fuck y'all bitches, I'm out. Peace.
The Gateway reserves the right to refuse publication of any submission it deems racist, sexist or otherwise hateful in nature.

#### SU-Lister relationship doesn't have to be strained



**Scott Fenwick** OPINION STAFF

With the University of Alberta administration barring the Residence Hall Association from formal participation in its Residence Budget Advisory Committee, the main consultation body for rent increases, some good can come out of this for Lister residents. It could potentially force the Lister Hall Students' Association and the Students' Union to sort out a sticky situation that occured last month.

According to documents obtained by The Gateway, the Lister Hall Students' Association violated their own constitution last month when holding a referendum on whether Lister residents should stop paying their \$5 membership fee to the RHA. The motion ultimatley passed.

Although the LHSA constitution has no provisions for a binding referendum, there are sections in it for holding a plebiscite, which are technically non-binding. Section 203 of the LHSA constitution states that, for plebiscites, "any official campaigning must be done in accordance with the elections bylaws," which is detailed in section 201. In that section, candidates are officially provided with the opportunity to put-up posters, have table-sitting, and participate in an election forum to answer questions.

However, when RHA executives were required to miss a LHSA Joint Council meeting to talk about a potential divorce because of SU election campaigning, Sumar and his fellow

RHA executives weren't afforded the opportunity to act as the official "no" side on the referendum on whether Lister residents should leave the RHA. According to notes obtained from a March 12 RHA Council meeting, LHSA President Michael McPhillips stated that there's no need to have a RHA campaign because the SU didn't have a "no" side during their referendums. And according to emails obtained from the RHA, the LHSA Chief Returning Officer consulted with McPhillips and LHSA President-Elect Eric Martin on whether the RHA should participate in the March 15 vice-presidential election forum. Ultimately, the RHA was told that they couldn't participate.

McPhillips declined an interview request to The Gateway, and Martin didn't respond to requests for an interview as of press time.

These breaches of the LHSA constitution—not to mention basic democratic principles—meant that the only way the RHA could participate in the electoral process was through an unofficial Facebook page. Because of the limited avenues for campaigning, RHA supporters were basically denied democratic rights, despite their vested interest in the outcome. The RHA's own mandate may have been greatly enhanced if the LHSA constitution was followed.

If a student group that's responsible for representing fee-paying students can't even enforce its own constitution for elections, the SU needs to step-in. Despite the potential awkwardness this may cause, Sumar is perhaps the best person for the job, given that he knows what happened and has also lived in Lister long enough to be familiar with LHSA executives and staff. This is



LISTER DAZE Lister students' decision last month to pull out of the RHA may not be that bad for them. FILE PHOTO MATT HIR.I

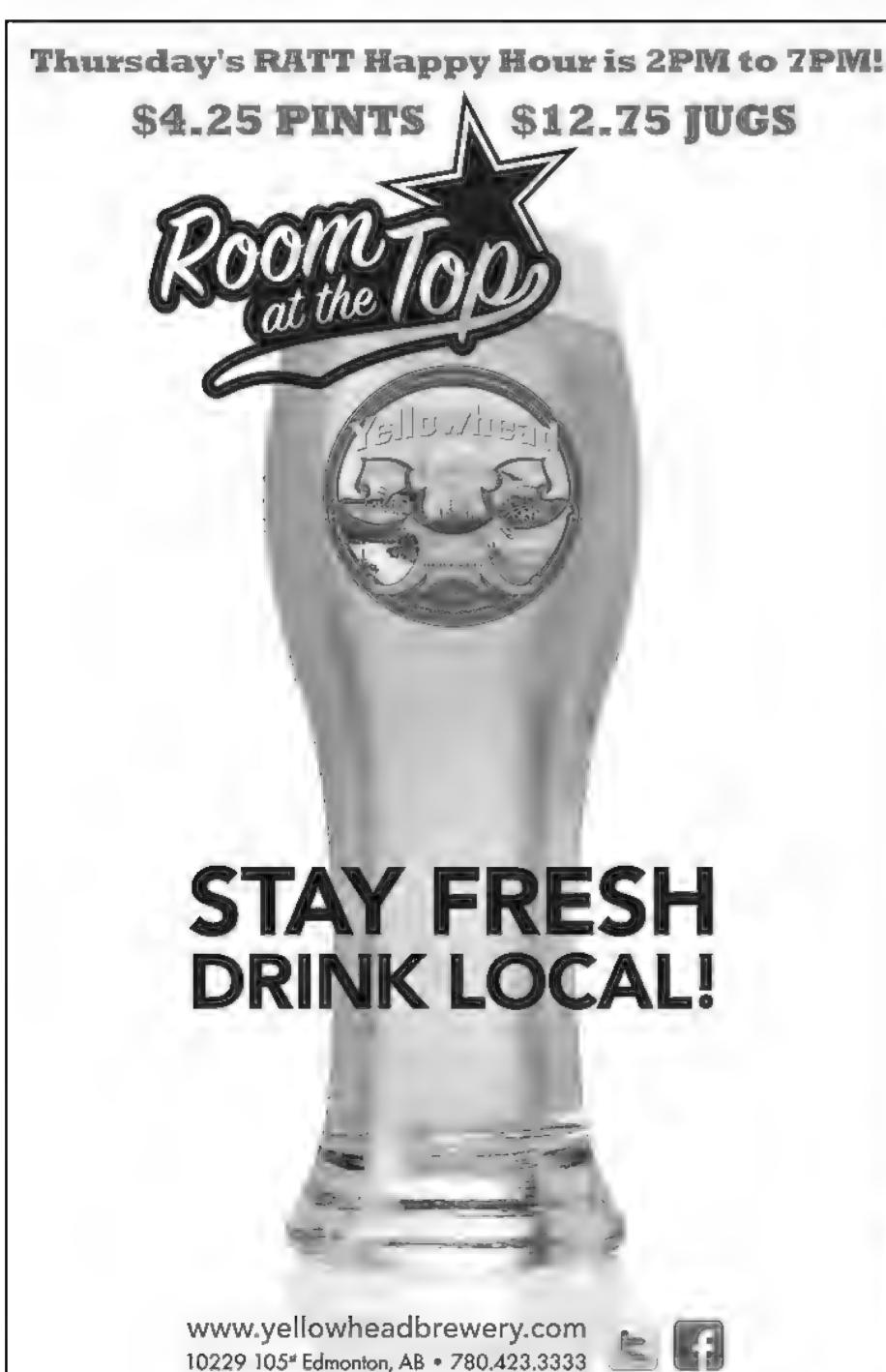
encouraging, because as Sumar transitions from an RHA executive to the Vice-President (Student Life), this is something they need to talk about.

Although the only SU regulation over residence associations is under the bylaw responsible for student groups, maybe they should be treated similar to faculty associations, which are regulated much tighter. In the bylaw for faculty associations, there are provisions for putting a group under probation to ensure they function well. In the LHSA's case,

they may need to come under greater SU oversight so that they're capable of enforcing their own constitution. The biggest thing that could be done with such a relationship is to make sure that democracy won't be derailed at Lister again, like what happened this year. Lister residents deserve nothing less.

Now the situation with the Residence Advisory committee may force a better relationship between the LHSA and SU, and could even lead to increased oversight.

The only undergraduate representatives on it will be the SU and the Augustana Students' Association. This means that the SU will be undergraduate residents' default avenue for advocacy on rent issues. Although this will unfairly reduce the student voice at the table, it can potentially force a conversation that both the SU and LHSA need to have, as the LHSA will need to maintain good communication with the SU to have its voice heard.

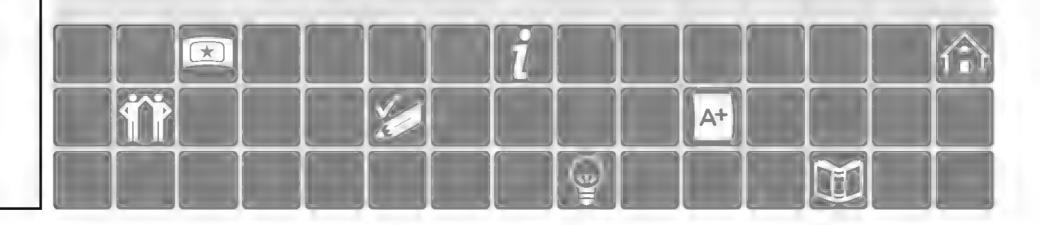




hallie.brodie@su.ualberta.ca

Applications are due: Friday June 29th, 2012

Visit your nearest InfoLink location or check out jobkin.ca for more details.



# Wilder OSE

MONEY SHOT Cash for all Albertans, just vote Wildrose! PHOTO ILLUSTRATION DAN MCKECHNIE

#### Danielle dollars could be better spent



**Adrian Lahola-**Chomiak OPINION STAFF

It's election season in Alberta again. But rather than going through the motions just to anoint a new conservapope, a challenger has entered the ring. Danielle Smith and the Wildrose Party have certainly shaken up the political establishment with stronger right-wing message and policies than the current Progressive Conservatives.

However, their campaign promise to deal out \$300 to each Albertan herkens back to the rule of King Ralph and echoes the same fiscal irresponsibility and vote-baiting tactics that were present then.

For the past 40 years, the PCs have dominated the political landscape in Alberta. Until the Wildrose Party came along there didn't seem to be any hope of unseating the dominant party. Apparently the strong conservative message has struck a chord with Alberta voters who feel alienated by the PC party. While much of country was painted orange in the federal election by the massive surge in popularity of the leftist NDP, Alberta has not only stood fast in our conservatism, but has actually started to move further to the right.

Although the Wildrose has certainly gained ground on their message, some of the tactics employed by the party amount to nothing more than buying votes. Promising \$300 to every Albertan is the kind of attractive policy that appeals to voters but lacks real substance. If

anything, Alberta politics is characterized by habit and apathy, which is what kept the Progressive Conservatives in power for so long and what will make a policy like Danielle dollars effective.

 How much Danielle **Dollars is factoring into** voting decisions can be debated, but if the party follows through on the promise it will be a waste of money.

Beyond the voting environment in Alberta being exploited by Danielle Smith, the policy is fiscally irresponsible. It has been designed as a way to allow Albertans to share in the surplus accrued by the province during the oilsands boom over the last decade. The idea is that the province will reward Albertans by spreading the wealth, rather than spend it directly on public services.

Thanks to these royalties, Alberta has become one of the wealthiest provinces in Canada. Unfortunately, initiatives like this one are being put forward while our education and healthcare systems struggle with limited funding.

If the government is gathering surpluses sufficiently large for this \$300 payday, then the plan should be to provide some much-needed funding to these programs.

In order for the Danielle Dollars to go ahead, the province would have to gather around \$1 billion in funds. That's not exactly loose change hiding in between the cushions of the budget. Alberta does enjoy a certain

level of privilege when it comes to fiscal planning, but Danielle Dollars would exploit that for minimal gain. We have the opportunity as a province to use prosperity to shore up programs which help all Albertans, but we're squandering the money on a small cash bonus.

Public education in the province is having a particularly difficult time dealing with budgeting issues. Larger class sizes, low and stagnating teacher wages and shortfalls for specialized programs are wide spread problems and only the tip of the iceberg.

Post-secondary institutions such as the University of Alberta have made major cuts across the board while funding for programs and research dries up. Healthcare in Alberta faces many of the same problems as anywhere else in Canada. But we have the ability to utilize royalties from the oil boom to shore up our economy by hiring more healthcare professionals and renovating aging facilities. To squander the potentially huge surplus on a quick cash bonus seems irresponsible.

The Wildrose Party is poised to take the majority of seats in the legislature and form a new government. How much Danielle Dollars is factoring into voting decisions can be debated, but if the party follows through on the promise it will be a waste of money. It's not so much that people cannot be trusted, bur rather a matter of where the money would help the most people. Danielle Dollars is a cheap trick, which will compromise solutions to our unfortunately expensive problems.

Albertans don't need a quick cash payday. We need t he ruling party to invest in programs the benefit us in the long run.



## Election options fail to impress



**Josh Schmaltz** OPINION STAFF

It's provincial election time. In theory, you should care. In reality, you probably don't. How did things end up this way? Educated people like you are supposed to care about government and politics. Perhaps you would wager it has something to do with the general ineptitude of today's politicians. Well yes, it has everything to do with incompetent candidates and political parties. Provincial politics suck.

Let's start with the Alberta NDP. They've got lots of promises and no plans to pay for them. Freeze tuition and no more non-instructional fees? That's a nice thought, but they leave out the part about the tax hike that would be necessary in order to make it feasible. The NDP really doesn't like oilsands tailings ponds either, and they plan to make the evil oil companies pay to clean up their mess. I guess they haven't heard that these companies are already responsible for their tailings ponds. The Alberta NDP is never going to be able to work with anyone if they take such an adversarial stance toward anything that they don't like.

The Alberta Liberals should rename themselves the "Raj Sherman Says Outlandish Things" Party. The Liberals take the NDP's tuition promise to the next level by saying that they want to completely eliminate postsecondary tuition in the next two decades. Like the NDP, they also lack a clear plan to pay for this promise. The Liberals want to clean up the environment, but they also want to cut funding for carbon capture projects. Carbon capture is not perfect, but it



WHO WILL YOU CHOOSE? Edmonton Riverview candidates talk to students about the important issues. RYAN BROMSGROVE

will be a stepping stone towards reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Every good idea that the Liberals have is offset by their determination to eliminate everything that they think isn't working.

The Alberta Party take themselves too seriously, and they have a theme song to prove it. They've promised changes to all sorts of programs, but most are very small adjustments. The Alberta Party's most extreme promise for post-secondary education is to make student loans slightly cheaper, and their plan for the oilsands is a promise to talk to people so they can eventually come up with an actual plan for the oilsands. The Alberta Party probably wouldn't have trouble finding ways to pay for their platform, but their proposals lack real substance.

The Wildrose Party, better known as "the guys who might actually win," have proven their competence with party leader Danielle Smith's now-infamous tour bus. Does this bra make my wheels look bigger? On a more serious note, the party's "Energy Dividend" proposal is a bit short-sighted. Giving everyone a share of oilsands royalties sounds nice in theory, but doesn't anyone remember "Ralph bucks"? The \$400 for every Albertan in 2006 didn't do much for the \$4.7 billion dollar deficit (or about \$1,300 for every Albertan) in 2009. Shortterm gain in exchange for a good chance of long-term pain seems to characterize a lot of what the Wildrose stands for.

Finally, we are left with the incumbents: the Progressive Conservatives. They haven't really promised anything. A vote for the PCs is a vote for the status quo. The status quo, however, seems to be wild fluctuations between boom and recession. You can't blame the global recession on the PCs, but you'd think they would have

a plan for dealing with the next economic crisis — seeing as how they've already governed their way through one. Instead, the Progressive Conservatives have positioned themselves as "not as crazy as the Wildrose Alliance," and it appears that they plan to win the election based on that alone. This "do nothing" election strategy probably mirrors what the PCs plan to do if they get elected.

So, who do you vote for? Good question. It is too bad that many of the people who end up in politics are also the people who probably shouldn't be in charge of anything. It's no wonder that no one cares about politics when making realistic campaign promises and then actually following through with them ceased being commonplace. Now, it's too much to ask for an affordable and rational campaign platform which is all you have to do to get my

#### the marble pedestal

BY Adrian Lahola-Chomia

It's finally spring, which means the weather is getting warmer, the snow is disappearing and the sun is out longer every day; all of this makes me appreciate the greatest piece of nature even more, the indoors. While most of you will be carpe dieming and shit, I'll be sitting in my shockabsorbent chair, playing video games and drinking beer in a nice, climate-controlled room.

If there is one thing that I learned last summer during the great mosquito plague of '11, it is that the outdoors wants to hurt you and is a horrible person. On the other hand, the indoors is a magical place filled with internet and air conditioning. I don't know why I would ever leave a place where I have access to drink, food, and entertainment, especially when it means trekking through heat and blinding sun.

Humans evolved from huntergatherers. Over the last few millennia, we have perfected the science of keeping the outdoors outside where it belongs. There has been no greater advancement in human technology than the house and we should appreciate it. I'm sick of people on TV telling me to get off the couch and get outside when the indoors is right here, and it is beautiful. The indoors is more than worthy of a spot atop the marble pedestal.

The Marble Pedestal is a semiregular feature where something we like is praised the only way we know how: in prose.



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ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR PROVOST AND VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC):

Input from the Community

für Cart Amrhein, Provost and Vice-President (Academic), has advised President Indira Samarasekera that he would like to stand for a third term of office. In consultation with the Chair of the Board of Governors, President Samarasekera has established an Adv sory Review Committee for Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

UAPPOL provides that members of the university community have an opportunity to contribute to the review process. Individuals are welcome to express their views on the priorities of Provost and Vice-President (Academic); including current issues, leadership, and the future direction of the Office of the Provost and Vice-President (Academic). A summary of all feedback will be provided to Dr. Amrhein during the review process. President Samarasekera invites you to submit your comments and/or suggestions by 4:30 pm on May 4, 2012, to:

President Indira Samarasekera c/o Jackie Wright, Secretary to the Advisory Review Committee, 3-1 University Hall, University of Alberta, email: jackie wright@ualberta.ca

All submissions shall be in writing and must include a written or email signature. Non-tenured faculty, staff, and students may request that their submission be passed to the committee anonymously

Responsibility for the administration of the review process is housed in the Office of the President. Membership of the committee is posted on the President's website at www president ualberta.ca

## The comprehensive guide to doing nothing this summer



Darcy Ropchan OPINION STAFF

Summer is almost here. After that final exam hurdle, thousands of students will be free from school and faced with an entire four months of summer. Although it seems like fun, finding ways to spend your time during those four months can be daunting. That's why I'm here to teach you how to have an awesome summer.

Summer jobs — I shudder at the sound of those words. Some people, such as my parole officer, will tell you that having a job is important or even necessary if you don't want to go back to jail. But summer is supposed to be a vacation from all my duties and responsibilities. I don't need to waste my precious vacation time by working for the man. Just take a lesson from my book and file for unemployment benefits.

All you have to do is make it seem like you're looking for a job and you'll get your steady diet of government cheese. Show up for a couple interviews. But because you don't actually

want to get hired, you can have some fun during the interview process.

Show up late to the interview and make it seem like you're in a hurry to get out of there. Remember, this potential employer scheduled this interview on your vacation time, so he better be short and sweet about it. If you don't like the questions he's asking, start asking some of your own—questions like: "Why would I want to work for you?" Or "What qualities do you think I have that set me apart from the other applicants?" Answer his questions with your questions. Let him know that even though he's the boss, he'll be working for you.

If you followed my advice you should be successful in not being stuck with a lame job for the summer. But there are still other options out there that you need to avoid. Options like volunteering. People say that volunteering is a great thing to do.

You get to meet new people, help out the less fortunate and it adds something to your resume. That's bullshit. Volunteering is a fancy word that means working for free. You know another word that means working for free? Slavery. Don't volunteer this summer. This should be self-explanatory. You work hard all day with nothing to show for it except for the fact that you

did a good deed and helped someone out. But you can't buy anything with that. So volunteering is out of the question if you want to have an awesome summer.

After work and volunteering, some people will spend their summer holidays travelling, which is once again complete bullshit. Travelling takes effort. You have to book your flights and hotel rooms. And as if that wasn't bad enough, you have to figure out something to do when you get to wherever you're going. Why would any selfrespecting human being pay \$2,000 to go to Europe and stare at some old buildings that some stuffy old king and queen used to live in? That's pointless and boring. My idea of travelling during the summer is going to the convenience store to buy cigarettes. That's all the adventure I need during my summer.

Hopefully this guide will help you have the best summer possible. The best advice I can give you is to not do anything this summer. You just spent eight months busting your ass in school—why should you have to exert any more effort than you have to on your vacation? The only three things you need to do this summer are sleep, eat and repeat. Take it easy this summer. You deserve it.



In their continued quest to leave this world a harder, more disappointing place for you to live, those rascally Baby Boomers have once again found a way to save themselves some money while shortchanging the rest of the country, earning themselves a place in the Burlap Sack. One aspect announced as part of the new federal budget last week was that the minimum age for Old Age Security would be raised from 65 to 67. Conveniently, this won't be put into effect until 2023, when history's most selfish generation will have already received their OAS payments, leaving the younger generations with the short end of the stick.

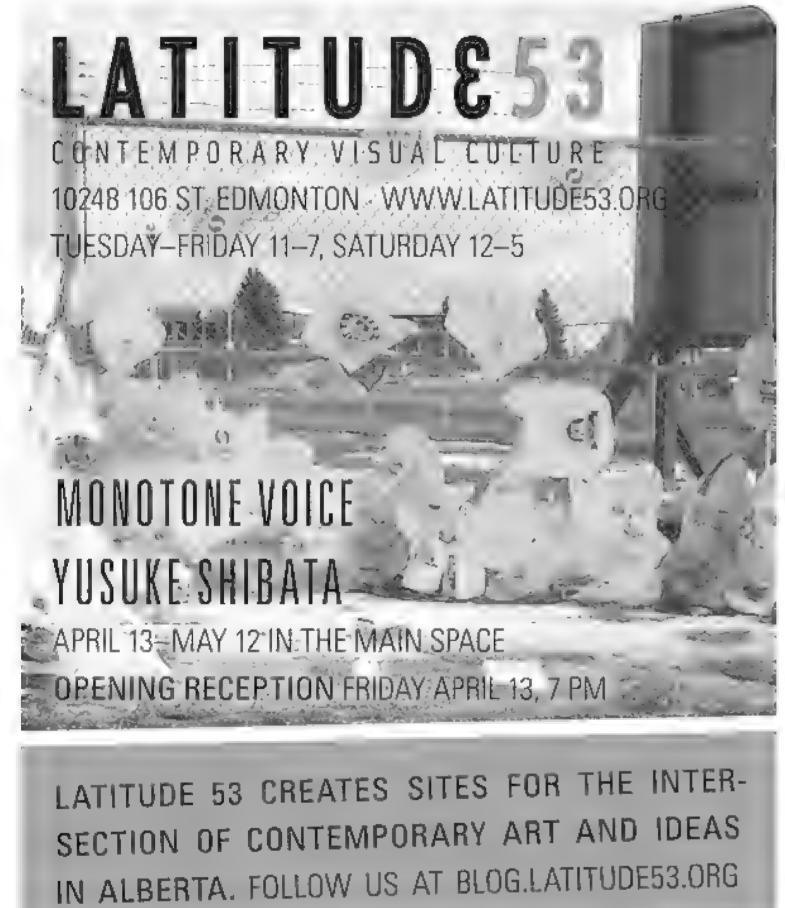
It doesn't seem fair that we'll have to suffer through two more years of waiting for these payments than the previous generation ever did, but there's a simple and wonderful solution to solve this inequity: have them fight each other. This thought came to mind after I watched MP Justin Trudeau trounce a Conservative senator in "The Fight For The Cure." Putting two people who have no business getting in a fight in the ring is an idea we can and should apply to more aspects of our society.

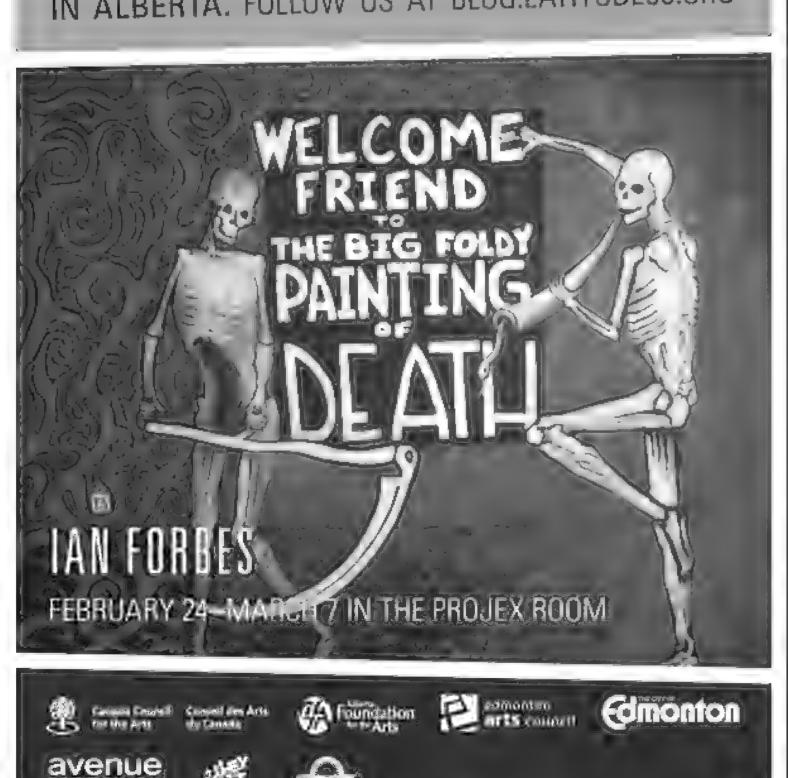
Nothing really settles an argument

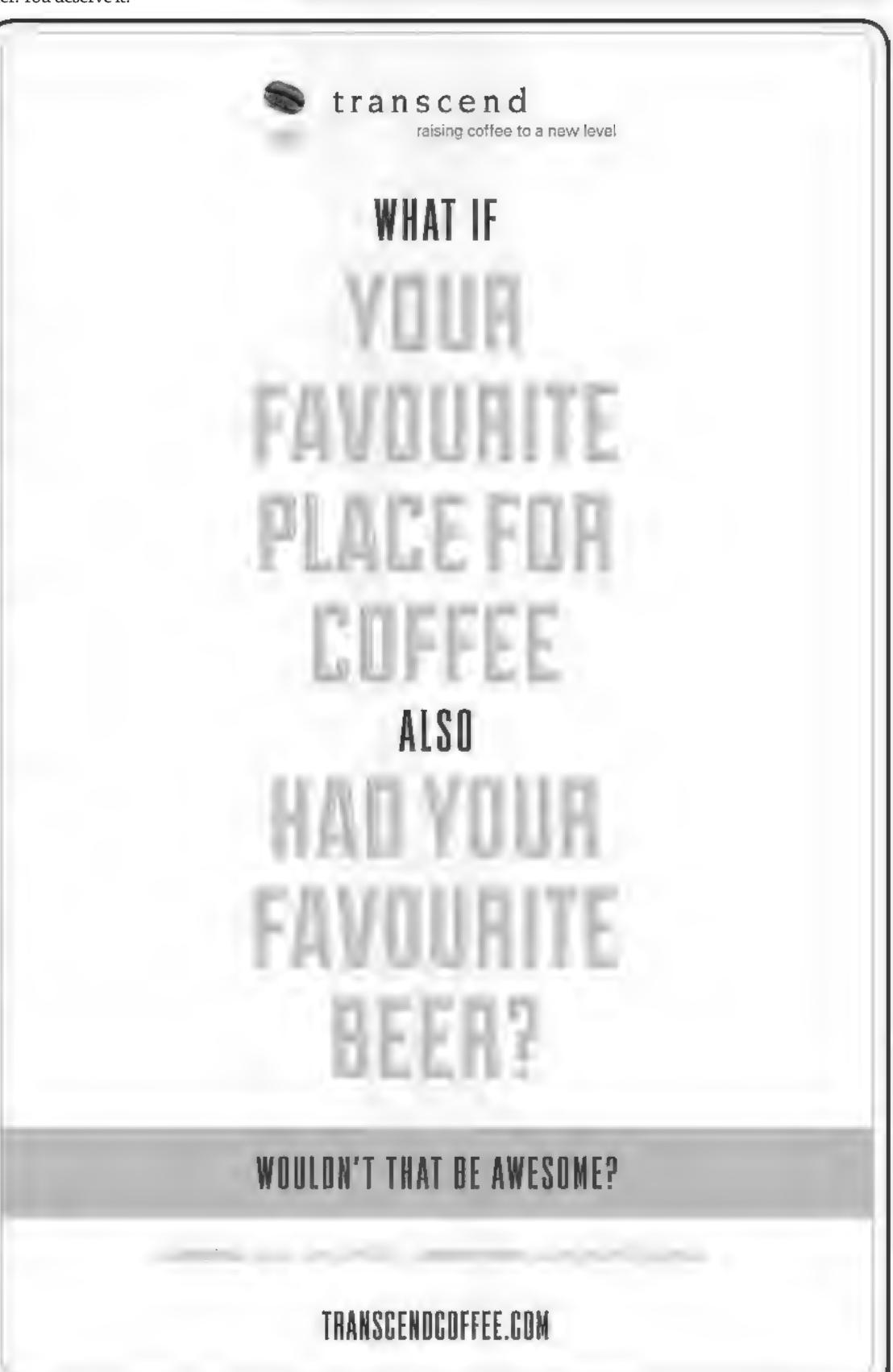
or silences an opponent like proving you're literally the better, stronger man. So with a small learning curve and the enormous entertainment factor, Baby Boomers should be pitted against one another in a Fight For The Right to Retire. The winners would get their OAS as promised at age 65, while the loser must go back to work for two grueling years.

If the thought of two men fighting one another at an age edging perilously close to retirement unsettles you, you're clearly in the minority. Just take a look at Sunday's Wrestlemania event in Miami. Tens of thousands of people attended with millions watching on Pay-Per-View to see two men at a collective age of 89 hit each other with steel chairs and sledgehammers for more than half an hour, and they loved it. There were bloodthirsty cheers and deafening chants in support of one man bleeding from the face after being dropped on his head, proving how far we've matured as a society to embrace such a sight as normal, legitimate entertainment. Two men in their sixties grappling for OAS sounds quaint in comparison. And hey, if we get the elderly beating each other up, we won't even need the sack anymore.

The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print.







# Arts & Culture

**Arts & Culture Editor** 

Madeline Smith

**Phone** 

780.492.7052

Email arts@gateway.ualberta.ca

**Volunteer** 

A&C meetings Wednesdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB.

#### social intercourse

COMPILED BY Alana Willerion

#### Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey

Written by Philip Shane and Justin Weinstein Directed by Constance Marks Starring Kevin Clash, Whoopi Goldberg and Frank Oz Thursday, April 12 at 9:15 p.m. Garneau Theatre (8712-109 St.) \$8 admission

One of television's most beloved characters, Elmo, has been charming audiences for decades. And with the recent success of the 2011 film *The Muppets*, it's no wonder that everyone wants to know more about the people behind the puppets. In Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey, we meet Kevin Clash, the puppeteer who created Elmo and voices the character to this day. The documentary provides a behind-the-scenes look at Clash's rise to puppeteering fame, his gig at Sesame Street and the birth of the world's beloved Elmo.

#### **Beowulf The King**

Directed by Michael Clark and Blake William Turner Starring Sheldon Elter, Amber Borotsik, David Ley, Bryan D. Webb and Frank Zotter La Cité Francophone (8627 91 St.) Runs until Sunday, April 29 at 7:30 p.m. \$21.75 at tixonthesquare.ca

Dragons, sea monsters and demons — these are just some of the creatures you'll be faced with during Workshop West Theatre's production of Beowulf The King. An adaptation of the seventh century epic poem, Beowulf The King is the action-packed story of Beowulf, a warrior who responds to King Hrothgar's call for help in slaying a monster named Grendel, only to find himself drawn to the sinful nature of the creature's mother.

#### The Three Stooges

Written by Mike Cerrone, Bobby Farrelly and Peter Farrelly Directed by Bobby Farrelly and Peter Farrelly Starring Sean Hayes, Will Sasso and Chris Diamantopoulos Opens Friday, April 13

After more than a decade of casting problems, the slapstick comedy trio known as the Three Stooges is finally returning to bring us more of the hilarious vaudeville moments they're known for. Based on the comedy shorts of the same name from the early 20th century, Moe (Chris Diamantopoulos), Larry (Sean Hayes) and Curly (Will Sasso) are just as funny as ever as they try to save their childhood orphanage. But in classic Stooge style, they end up stumbling into a murder plot and even find themselves starring on a reality TV show.

#### **Monotone Voice**

Created by Yusuke Shibata Opening reception on Friday, April 13 at 7 p.m. Latitude 53 (10248 106 St.)

Japanese artist Yusuke Shibata is exploring the idea of reality beyond the façade of what is true and what is a lie in her latest exhibit, Monotone Voice. Currently the artist-in-residence at the Uof A's Printmaking Department, Shibata uses a mixture of video, photography and three-dimensional art pieces to explore the meaning behind theories of chance and inevitability, examining the way reality too often mixes with falsehoods.



SUPPLIED INGRAM BARSS

#### Joel Plaskett stretches his songwriting muscles in the pursuit of imperfection

MUSIC PREVIEW

#### **Joel Plaskett**

WITH > Frank Turner

WHEN > Thursday, April 19 at 8 p.m. WHERE > Winspear Centre (102 Ave. and 99 St.)

HOW MUCH > \$29 at the Winspear box office

Kate Black

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF - @BLAHBLAHBLACK

With almost two decades of releases already behind him, Joel Plaskett is certainly no stranger to making music. But the Eastern-Canadian rock veteran is still constantly learning through his craft — and this time around, he's taking a lesson in artistic efficiency.

Plaskett and his band The Emergency created their latest album, Scrappy Happiness, over a 10-week period, recording, producing and releasing each song online in one week. With its quick production, Scrappy Happiness may seem like an unusual follow-up to his last album Three, an ambitious, three-disc concept album. But Plaskett explains that producing 10 songs over 10 weeks was a challenge in its own right, and speaks to a larger theme of embracing imperfection and living in the moment.

"I wanted a new challenge," Plaskett says. "I wanted to do something that was different than Three, but still had a bit of an unusual feel. I mean, the word 'unusual' may not be exactly what I want, but I thought for me it would be a good leaping-off point."

Plaskett says he got the idea to record on a tight deadline after producing the track "On The Rail" for CBC Radio's Great Canadian Song Quest in 2009. The song was on the radio the day after it was finished, which drove Plaskett to consider what stops artists from putting music out faster. He acknowledges one of the main obstacles in quick production is letting go of the urge to toil over small details.

"You just can't get so hung up on the idea that things have to be so sonically perfect, even esthetically perfect, strangely enough," Plaskett says, adding that a lot of the records he enjoys have songs that "don't feel quite finished."

\* "When you look back on the past, you romanticize times in your life as being really great. (The album's about) if you could see the present through a future filter, look at what you're doing at that time with the same lens. and try to embrace the present — not to get too spiritual about things."

> JOEL PLASKET SINGER-SONGWRITER

Scrappy Happiness stays true to The Emergency's signature rustic vibrancy — there's little indication that the crew was pressed for time. Plaskett explains that despite the time constraints, there's always a need to produce a likeable album. But eventually, he had to learn to deal with differences of opinion in other people's interpretations.

"You try your best to make things good and make sure the presentation connects with people, but there's a certain point where everyone perceives things so differently and everyone has a different opinion about things," Plaskett says.

"People will say, 'This is such a warm-sounding record.' Like, what does 'warm' mean?" he laughs. "That's probably different from what 'warm' means to me. I mean, you can use those terms, but you realize how different everyone's filters are."

For Plaskett, Scrappy Happiness was more exhausting and he adopted a more collaborative approach in comparison to earlier projects. He admits that working with more people in the studio was "a little weird" and removed a sense of mystery from the recording process. Still, he says the ultimate goal was to create music that framed the message he wanted to convey.

"It's about recognizing that the things that make you happy are often imperfect," Plaskett says. "When you look back on the past, you romanticize times in your life as being really great. (The album's about) if you could see the present through a future filter, look at what you're doing at that time with the same lens, and try to embrace the present — not to get too spiritual about things."

Plaskett says he isn't much of a perfectionist, adding with a tinge of honesty that most of his songs are "peculiar." But in the end, his bottom line is making a record that he feels satisfied with, and above all else, commemorates the happiness in life that is — for lack of a better word — scrappy.

"I live a pretty lucky life getting to make music," Plaskett says. "So I just wanted a record that kind of celebrated the struggle a little bit.

"I mean, it's not that big of a struggle, but there is a struggle, no matter what walk of life you come from — there's always that struggle just to find happiness in whatever circumstances you have."

#### A huge artistic undertaking for life's biggest mystery

ART **PREVIEW** 

#### The Big Foldy **Painting Of Death**

CREATED BY Ian Forbes WHERE > Latitude 53 (10248 106 St.) WHEN Runs until Saturday, May 12

**Andrea Ross** 

ARTS & CHITHRE WRITER

**PAINTING • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1** 

Describing the morbid concept as "a joke that got out of control," Forbes says he isn't afraid to use macabre images in his art, despite the fact that society isn't always open to it.

"It's this idea of this continuous piece of paper that you are working on, and if you make a mistake, it's like an 'Oh well, keep going' kind of thing. And so it's the format that pushes forward the narrative."

ARTIST, THE BIG FOLDY PAINTING OF DEATH

"It's kind of like a taboo subject in our culture," Forbes says. "Sex is fine, you can talk about anything you want, but don't talk about death. I don't want to hear about your coffin, your grave, what happens when you die — nobody wants to talk about that. It is a little in your face, I suppose ... People are very much unable to articulate horrible things anymore ... I don't have some horrible trauma to work out or anything like that — but it's in the back of my mind."

In confronting his own personal doubts, fears and regrets, Forbes incorporates elements of the grotesque, overt sexuality and

morbidity. But amongst the morbidity are moments of tranquility where Forbes plays with texture and layering to create the flowing appearance of shadows and light.

Forbes describes this process of painting as incredibly introspective: a personal journey of sorts, where the only option is to push forward and continue on.

"(It's) this idea of this continuous piece of paper that you are working on, and if you make a mistake, it's like an 'Oh well, keep going' kind of thing. And so it's the format that pushes forward the narrative," Forbes explains. "That's what's important about the format: where the whole thing comes from. You kind of have to respond and move forward without stopping."

Forbes' massive medium also allowed him to play with the narrative in bizarre ways, as demonstrated in the fanged "poopyhead" fish eating away the end of the canvas by the entrance. There's also a sense of Forbes' personal revelations, like in the curious section of small "sorry" messages written in a dark corner in the second half of the work.

Dealing with the deep, complex topic that is

death, the painting's enormous format is necessary to provide an outlet for all the painting's ideas and themes. But as the painting's many messages unveil themselves in one space, it seems 127 feet still isn't quite enough to encompass the entire scope of the subject matter.

"It's been such a liberating thing, to have an outlet for all of this stuff," Forbes says. "And it just never seems to end ... I got to the end and was like, 'Oh man, this is done?'

"I could do another roll, you know. There's so much stuff that I didn't get into."



## Shane Koyczan turns inner thoughts into spoken word art

MUSIC PREVIEW

#### Shane Koyczan and the Short Story Long

(15120A Stony Plain Rd.)

WITH > Guests

WHEN > Friday, April 13 at 8 p.m.
WHERE > Haven Social Club

HOW MUCH > \$15 at yeglive.ca

#### Madeline Smith

ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR = @MEKSMITH

Shane Koyczan is a man of so many words, after 13 years of sharing them, he still has plenty left.

While most know him from his ode to Canada "We Are More," which he performed during the opening ceremonies for the Vancouver Olympics in 2010, his catalogue reaches far deeper. With nine albums and three books already under his belt, Koyczan's stream of intensely personal poetry won't be stopping any time soon.

"I tend to write every day. It'll come in waves ... I don't worry about writer's block per se. I more just prepare myself for the flood that's about to come," he says, noting that in case of desperate times, there's always a writing back-up plan.

"I have a file called 'purgatory' where all the stuff I write that never gets used goes. And if I'm ever stuck for an idea, I just pull out the purgatory file and go, 'Oh yeah, that!'"

"I think that's the most important thing about being a spoken word performer: when you perform a piece, you really have to remember why you wrote it in the first place. You want to feel that feeling again."

SHANE KOYCZAN
POET

Through his ever-expanding catalogue of personal reflections, emotional outbursts and political commentaries, Koyczan gives his audience a direct line to the workings of his own mind. It's an unusual career path, but Koyczan's articulate examination of his thoughts has been paying his bills for nine years — making the emotional



outpouring of his writing worth it.

"I don't want to mislead people — a lot of those years were pretty lean," he says with a laugh. "It's one of those things — if you're going to do it, you have to really do it. It's really going to be a job."

Koyczan's performances have taken a variety of different forms since he took his first steps into spoken word poetry, moving from solo performances to a three-man collaboration called Tons of Fun University (T.O.F.U.) to poetry performances he combines with the music of his band, the Short Story Long. Koyczan classifies the combination of song and poetry as "talk rock" — a term coined by former T.O.F.U. bandmate Mike McGee — laughing that he's angling for the recognition of spoken word poetry from The Junos. But while poetry can be a solitary search through Koyczan's own thoughts, he says the music allows him to plug into the source of his inspiration.

"I write to music, so certainly when I'm writing and feeling those feelings, the music is definitely present. And then to perform live, it gives me that step to really step back

into that place where I was when I wrote it," Koyczan says, adding he has to work harder during solo performances to bring himself back to the emotions that drove him to write the poem.

"I think that's the most important thing about being a spoken word performer: when you perform a piece, you really have to remember why you wrote it in the first place. You want to feel that feeling again. And music helps me to do that ... With the band, as soon as I hear that first note I get it — I get the emotion and I'm right there."

Koyczan says spoken word poetry is the most direct way he knows to say what's on his mind, and that's exactly how his work comes across: an unfiltered snapshot of his inner self. Every day he gathers more material, and his writing lays everything bare for audiences to turn his reflections back onto themselves.

"(Writing) is a way to get through the emotions and get to the core of where I'm at and recognize those things within myself," Koyczan says.

"It's therapy — it's cheaper than therapy."

## fashion streeters

OMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY Julianna Damer



GATEWAY: > Describe what you're wearing.

KATE: My socks, my sweater and my shirt are from Decadence. They were pretty cheap, but they're lovely. My pants are from the Topshop website. They're soft and sort of have a vintage look. I got my bag from Urban Outfitters — it was on sale. Vintage is popular right now and I have a lot of vintage clothes.

GATEWAY: > How do you vintage shop?

KATE: I browse a lot of fashion websites like Lookbook and then I figure out the way that I would like to wear the outfit. You have to show your personality through what you're wearing. Some poeple like a modern feel like in the magazines, but with vintage there's more expression.





#### Eight and a Half Eight and a Half

Arts & Crafts eight-and-a-half.com

Peggy Jankovic

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF - PEGGHETTI

Last year saw the end of the iconic bands Broken Social Scene and The Stills. From there, a handful of members from each group joined together to form Eight and a Half, and their self-titled debut takes the distinct sounds of their former bands in new directions with incredibly lush and complex textures.

Liam O'Neil, who played horns and keyboard with The Stills, now works with synthesizers and samplers to create a glittery, precisely calculated chaos on *Eight and a Half.* This provides a perfect backdrop for The Stills' former singer Dave Hamelin's smooth vocals, establishing a distinct tone of melancholia. From the cold instrumental opener "When I Was Twenty Nine," and all the way through to the final warm hums of "My Forevers," *Eight And A Half* has a well-constructed arc, slowly progressing from

isolating chilliness to a much brighter, panoramic sound.

Eight and a Half reaches its climax with "Two Points," which starts as a chaotic mess of sound but untangles itself into a solid track set at a faster pace than the rest of the album. The entire composition is an excellent exploration of dynamics as it shifts between sparseness and dense layers of sound. It's here that the band is at their most succinct, with drummer Justin Peroff providing a steady, urgent pulse for the sweeping vocals and eclectic synth to follow closely.

While Eight and a Half are at times repetitive in their songwriting and have a tendency to draw certain songs out longer than they need to be, *Eight and a Half* is an altogether strong, cohesive effort for a debut album, making for a deeply satisfying listen.



 $Check\ out\ the gateway on line. ca/fashion streeters\ for\ more\ photos.$ 

#### The Wooden Sky reaches for new creative heights

MUSIC PREVIEW

#### The Wooden Sky

WITH Sunparlour Players WHEN > Saturday, April 14 at 6 p.m. WHERE > The Pawn Shop

(10551 82 Ave.)

HOW MUCH > \$13 at yeglive.ca or Blackbyrd

#### **Justin Bell**

MANAGING EDITOR - @JUJOBELL

For Wooden Sky frontman Gavin Gardiner, a mellower sound was a natural reaction to spending more time at home.

The Wooden Sky had spent a lot of time on tour, and having a chance to decompress in his hometown of Toronto gave Gardiner a new outlook on his own music. As he puts it, it was a chance to slow down and reconsider his band's work.

"I feel like the change in tone was more a reaction to being home from tour — looking at music in a different way," says Gardiner, on the road after a gig in San Francisco. "I had enough of playing loud music all the time. I got into listening to my records."

It was this new outlook that would eventually give birth to their latest album, Every Child a Daughter, Every Moon a Sun. With more time to think, Gardiner found himself looking at life slightly differently.

On the phone, he describes cars passing by, peering into windows and trying to figure out what the people inside are doing. What is their life like? What is their story? How do they get through life?



"Sometimes I find that ovewhelming," Gardiner admits. "I grew up a headstrong teenager living this vain life, and now I'm starting to get this point in life."

The new album is full of lilting ballads and slower music the group hasn't been known for in the past, and Gardner admits it's a departure from their previous material. Even the name is meant to encapsulate that new feeling on the record — "a pretty obvious approach," as he

describes it.

The band has also recorded several of their live performances, eventually releasing a series of shorts titled Grace on a Hill. While they appear at first to be a music video, they are in fact the band's live performances in the Grace on the Hill Anglican church in Toronto.

The shorts follow a storyline of the group getting stuck in the church due to a violent storm in the city. Each of the songs is performed

live, in order to get a more natural feeling. The Wooden Sky started recording the shorts at one in the afternoon, and didn't finish until 7 a.m. the next morning.

"We wanted to encapsulate the feeling of us performing live without a standard takeaway show," Gardiner says. "It didn't feel like a story anymore. It just sort of felt like shooting on the edge of sanity. Sometimes that's an interesting place to be creatively."

Three of the videos have been released, and when asked about the next two, Gardiner says simply, "shit's gonna get crazy."

While the band has been trying new things and the album has a different sound, that's not to say they've completely abandoned the driving folk-rock they have become known for, nor have they pulled back from their very audience-focused shows. While they're still playing aftershows in parking lots outside venues, they've added an even bigger audience-appreciation aspect to the Canadian part of the tour.

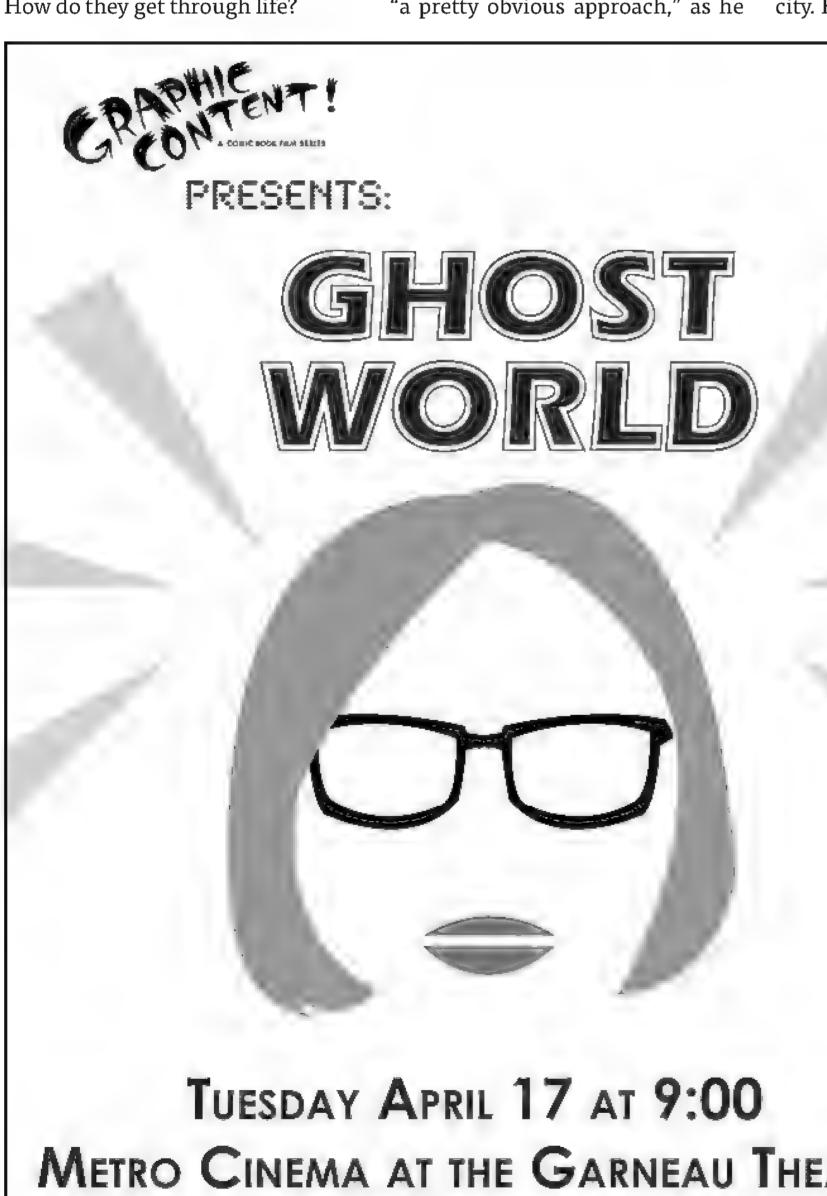
Playing a number of house shows in fans homes, the band has been paring down their sound to just a few guitars and some drums, ditching microphones and amps in favour of a more natural sound.

"In the house show, there's no buffer — just the human voice," Gardiner says. "There's something to be said for that."

There's also something to be said for the home-cooked meals that come along with the shows, and the hospitality of fans along the way. It's a minor respite for the touring band, a sanctuary from the harsh world on the road.

It's also the logical next step for a band known for their antics during shows. The last time they played in Edmonton, they did a 20-minute set outside the front doors of the venue. And on the phone, Gardiner talks about the night before, when the group unplugged and played three songs in the audience without microphones.

It's something the group prides themselves on: something for the fans. A great show, and something special to remember.



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Like the fleeting era of '90s girl bands, another Gateway Arts & Culture editorship has come to an end. But just like those Spice Girls lyrics you can't forget, we'll be stuck in your head forever.

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#### Cast of American Pie reunites for a new adventure

FILM REVIEW

#### American Reunion

WRITTEN BY Jon Hurwitz and

Hayden Schlossberg

DIRECTED BY > Jon Hurwitz and Hayden Schlossberg STARRING > Jason Biggs, Alyson Hannigan and Sean William Scott

WHEN ) Now playing

#### **Katherine Speur**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF - @KATHERINE\_SPEUR

With an abundance of sexual escapades and hilarious misunderstandings, American Reunion proves that maturity doesn't necessarily come with age. While the class from '99 isn't as young as they once were, they're still as horny and obnoxious as ever.

American Pie may be where the franchise's raunchiness began, but a variety of spinoffs and sequels have proven that it's more than just a series of forgettable teen comedies. Over the years, the movies have maintained a solid fanbase, becoming a guilty pleasure for many. The humour may be immature, but it's surprisingly difficult not to laugh at the characters' constant debauchery and troublemaking.

This time around, the story focuses on the high school reunion of the East Great Falls class of 1999, and the original crew from American Pie is back and all grown up. Jim Levenstein (Jason Biggs) returns home with his wife Michelle (Alyson Hannigan) and their two-yearold son, Evan (George Christopher Bianchi). But Jim isn't the only one who's changed: his longtime friends

and fellow troublemakers Oz (Chris Klein), Finch (Eddie Kaye Thomas), Stifler (Seann William Scott), Vicky (Tara Reid), Heather (Mena Suvari) and Kevin (Thomas Ian Nicolas) have all been doing some growing up as well. It's been more than a decade since they graduated, and once they all get together, they realize that many things have changed over the years — not that they let that hinder their partying.

American Reunion stays close to the format of the first American Pie in many ways, though some of the humour is slightly less memorable. While the film is a reunion between the East Great Falls classmates, there's the sense that the audience is also reuniting with the characters. Listening to one-hit wonders, seeing Tara Reid in her first film in years and noticing that Stifler's mom (Jennifer Coolidge) has still got it going on brings back the '90s nostalgia.

But while the film meets expectations, it doesn't go beyond that. The lavishness of tube socks, hot moms and nudity remains entertaining but not necessarily shocking. Some of the stories are underdeveloped and don't seem to reach their fullest potential, while certain original characters, like the exchange student Nadia, have short cameo appearances. But these are likely to only be disappointments to steadfast fans — casual viewers likely won't find many concerns.

The American Pie characters may not be as fresh-faced as they once were, but their sense of humour remains the same. Although American Reunion can be predictable, it still has the same raunchy entertainment that's guaranteed to make you laugh. And if you've got a craving for American Pie, just seeing all the characters together is sure to satisfy it.

#### OLP opens their next musical chapter

MUSIC PREVIEW

#### **Our Lady Peace**

WITH > Pack a.d.

WHEN > Tuesday, April 17 at 9 p.m. WHERE > Starlite Room (10030 102 St.) HOW MUCH > Sold out

#### **Chris Gee**

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF - @CHRISGGGGGG

Over the past two decades, Our Lady Peace's sound has been undergoing a subtle but noticeable transformation. Led by singer Raine Maida, the band has moved from their origins in the post-grunge years of the mid-'90s to a more simple pop, radiofriendly rock sound in the new millennium.

Starting with a notable stylistic shift on the band's fifth album Gravity in 2002, OLP has begun to opt for a cleaner, more straightforward sound — a departure from their earlier work which featured angular guitars and Maida's trademark nasally falsetto wail. He says their eighth studio album, Curve, is a step back towards the roots of the band, but also marks the beginning of a new chapter.

"There's a lot more falsetto, there's a lot more texture, keyboards and that kind of stuff as well. It's really who we are," Maida says. "I think we got away from it for a little while, and it's very nice to be back in that place and actually be expanding on it.

"I think this is really where we've been trying to get to for the last 10 years."

Curve takes elements from both OLP eras, with guitar-solo heavy pieces to piano balladry, and from optimistic to emotive. At the same time, Maida says that Our Lady Peace's live shows have a new dynamic element to them. In addition to playing their new material, the four-piece have been reaching deep into their back catalogue to play some of the older fan favourites.

"We've created some musical moments that we haven't done before," Maida says. "I think it seems like the crowds are really appreciating that. It's not just going to a concert and hearing song after song after song. That's boring now."

Like any group that's been around as long as Our Lady Peace, the band has been battling to keep fans and critics consistently happy throughout a long career. As a result, Curve is also a concept record about "staying in the fight." The band even went so far as to ask Canadian icon and former heavyweight boxing champion George Chevalo to feature on the album cover and speak in one of the songs. Maida uses this fighting theme in his lyrics to reflect the band's recent struggles.

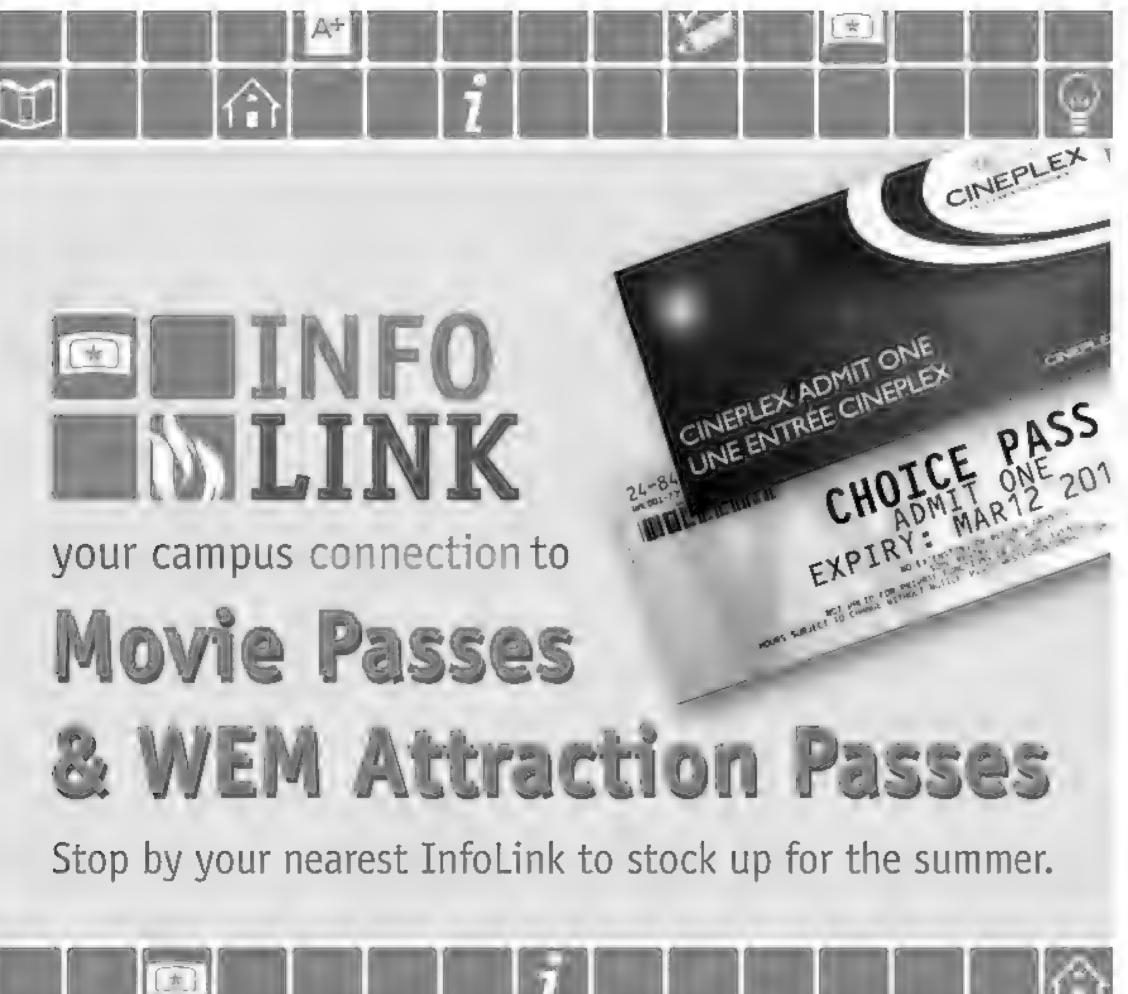
"There are a lot of metaphors on the record that deal with the struggle of a fighter," Maida explains. "I think we view ourselves as fighters, in terms of some of this stuff we've been through in the last 10 years and being a band for the last 18 years. I think there's a certain amount of fight to keep it together sometimes."

Today, Maida is glad that Our Lady Peace has found a new niche for themselves. Having been in the spotlight for so long, the group is planning to focus on making music they want to hear, without worrying about sales or fame.

"It's not really about radio or being on MTV or MuchMusic or that stuff anymore," Maida says. "It's turned into being musicians for the sake of crafting great records and playing well live ... We are very sold in what we want to do now. The timing was good for us. We got ownership back — we have complete independence, and so the fact that we're at this place with this music right now, it's like a perfect storm for us.

"I mean, if you don't grow as an artist, then what's the point of doing it?"







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#### A summer of superheroes and sci-fi at the cinema



Kory Orban A&C COMMENTARY

When it comes to Hollywood, there are only two times worth your attention. The first is the fall, when all the art house films and Oscar contenders are released — though if you have a taste for explosions and gratuitous sex scenes, you may be disappointed. Luckily, summer, the other noteworthy Hollywood season, quenches these primal thirsts. Billions of dollars are pumped out of Hollywood in the form of blockbuster pictures, and this year is shaping up to be pretty impressive.

For starters, there are the superhero movies, which have become a staple of the summer movie scene. First up is the long awaited *Avengers*, directed by Joss Whedon of *Buffy the* 

Vampire Slayer fame. This film is the culmination of The Incredible Hulk, Captain America: The First Avenger, Thor and the Iron Man series. After loads of hype, audiences will finally get to see the finished product — but whether it will be any good is another story. With the varying success of the solo superhero movies, the team effort is likely to be so-so.

In more exciting news, Christopher Nolan's final chapter of his Batman Trilogy, *The Dark Knight Rises*, is coming to the big screen. Christopher Nolan has a special, dark touch with superhero movies, and his last Batman instalment, *The Dark Knight*, continues to be riveting to this day. While there are high expectations for the success of the third Batman film, it's doubtful — if not impossible — that Nolan will succumb to the pressure of having to create yet another masterpiece. It might be hard for Tom Hardy's character Bane to compete with the eerie cackle of Heath Ledger's Joker, but he'll find his own villainous charm.

While the next Batman movie is an almost

guaranteed success, *The Amazing Spider-Man* may not have the same luck in the superhero universe this summer. Luckily, in this case, the bar is set much lower — all Spider-Man really has to do to surpass director Sam Raimi's trilogy is not cry like a whiny emo kid. While the previous Spider-Man installments got progressively worse over the years, with newcomer Andrew Garfield now playing the lead role, there will hopefully be some new life in the series.

Moving away from the superhero flicks, the upcoming summer comedies are looking like they'll be as quirky as ever. A good example of this is Johnny Depp and Tim Burton's new film Dark Shadows. The famous duo is teaming up yet again to bring an old cult TV show back to life, with Depp playing a recently awoken vampire whose aim is to restore the family business to its glory days. It's a strange concept, but it beats the hell out of Twilight's Bella and Edward. Hopefully, the film might make vampires cool again.

The summer movie season wouldn't be

complete without a remake of something old, and this year that will be *Total Recall*. The original 1990 film is a bizarre classic featuring a woman with three boobs and Arnold Schwarzenegger's head exploding in his space suit. The new iteration of the dystopian tale could go either way. After all, the original was pretty amazing, and Colin Farrell as the lead is no Arnie. *Prometheus*, the prequel to the *Alien* series, is also in the works, and looks infinitely more promising. The trailers so far have been vague and cryptic but there are sure to be robots and aliens aplenty.

All the aforementioned flicks are just samples of the delicious mix of popcorn movies coming out this summer. Despite my best efforts, I've only made a dent in the magnitude of awesome films that will be hitting the silver screen in the next few months. From *The Bourne Legacy* to *Piranha 3DD*, *Rock of Ages* to *Ted*, and *Neighborhood Watch* to *Moonrise Kingdom*, there's no doubt you'll find something to satisfy your cinematic needs.

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#### The Maids offers a twisted take on femininity

#### THEATRE PREVIEW

#### The Maids

WHEN > Runs Friday, April 13 Saturday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m., matinée performance Sunday, April 15 at 2 p.m., no show Monday, April 16

WHERE > Varscona Theatre

(10329 83 Ave.)

WRITTEN BY → Jean Genet DIRECTED BY > Andrea Beça

STARRING > Sarah Horsman, Louise

Parsons-Lozinski HOW MUCH > \$16 at tixonthesquare.ca

Large and Zachary

#### Tom Blazejewicz

ARTS & CULTURE WRITER

Performativity may sound like a word that belongs strictly to the theatre, but it plays a role in our everyday lives. Almost everything we do is part of a performance that we choose to display to society — even identity as a man or a woman can be determined more by the way you act than your body. With an examination of gender and violence, playwright Jean Genet's The Maids takes performativity to extreme, dark places, where following through with murderous fantasies leads to horrible realities.

The play follows Claire (Louise

Large) and Solange (Sarah Horsman), two sisters and maids in the employ of Madame (Zachary Parsons-Lozinski), a wealthy homeowner. And when Madame is away, Claire and Solange drop the obedient maid routine and act out sadomasochistic fantasies about themselves and Madame, whom they one day hope to kill. But they soon discover they're on a path towards finding the fine line between make-believe and reality.

The idea of creating your identity is a major part of why director Andrea Beça decided to do her own production of The Maids. A writer herself at the helm of her own theatre company, Cowardly Kiss, the play presents an interesting artistic challenge, and a departure from the kind of material she's used to.

"Genet started writing theatre because of the outright falseness of it. And that's why it's really interesting to me, because, I usually tend to write things that are quite real, and quite palpable — a situation in theatre where you go and you think, 'Oh, well that could happen to me,' ' Beça says. "And even though The Maids might seems that way for a split second, it quickly pulls the rug out from under you. It's completely different from anything I would ever write."

While she's in unfamiliar theatrical territory, Beça is also putting her



own spin on the play. Genet wrote The Maids for three female characters to be played by men. But in Beça's production, the maids are played by women, while the role of the Madame is still taken by a male actor. Crossing gender lines adds another layer of absurdity to the play, making the story even more strange and distant.

"What (Genet) wanted was for the audience to sit down and see the actors and go, "This isn't real," Beça says, adding that her take on the play embraces this idea while digging deeper into what makes a feminine

"In my version of the play, I took (the maids') femininity to a really disgusting level. My production really breaches on the idea of the grotesque, the absurd — they are quite monstrous," she says.

While the maids are played by female actors, their characters are much harsher than Zachary Parsons-Lozinski's softer portrayal of the Madame, with a more "natural" sense of femininity.

"(The actresses) look pretty in the photos, but once you see them in action, they're not, and I thought it would be really interesting to juxMadame to that," Beça adds.

It's ultimately up to the audience to decide how much of the maids' identities — as women, as murderers — they create. And as the characters uncover their own dark desires, the play brings a new focus to our true natures with its own sick sense of humour.

"People should still not be afraid to laugh. As disturbing as it gets sometimes, as twisted as it gets, it's still really funny," Beça says.

"It's dark, and there are a lot of dark things explored in the play, but there are some moments that you can't help but laugh at."



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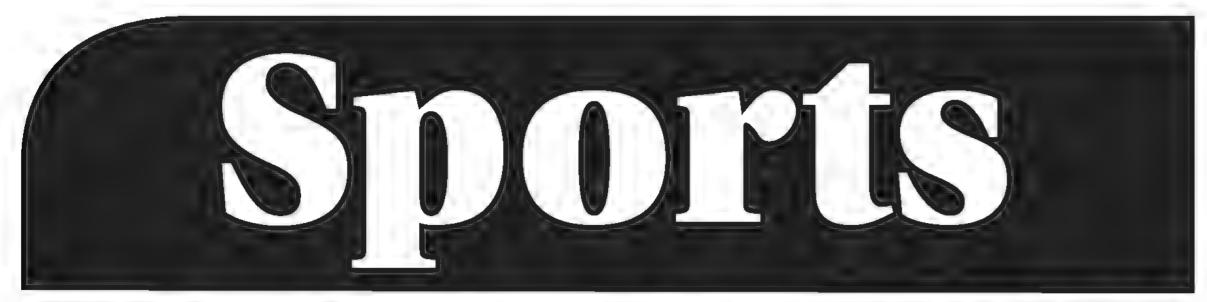
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## Basketball's Baker named best in sports for Gateway's seventh-annual sports awards



**JUDGEY JUDGES** Sports writers Atta Almasi, Andrew Jeffrey and Rebecca Medel give their take on the best moments of 2011/12 after following the highs and lows of the Bears and Pandas for the past year. DAN MCKECHNIE

won CIS goaltender of the year.

aces in CanWest.

athlete.

2009/10

Jordan Bakr.

Stars Bashes,

Chad Khawa

Atta: I also have Jordan Baker because he

did lift the team off its back. He was an All-

Canadian player and he's a big reason why the

Bears did so well. Also, he's a third-year player

so that's a lot of potential going forward. On

the women's side I have Jaki Ellis for women's

volleyball because she was really the staple for

them, not only in being key in beating UBC,

but also leading them to the CIS finals as well.

She was top five in hitting percentage and

**Rebecca:** Brendan Bottcher for leading the

Bears to a curling gold medal at nation-

als after just having won World Juniors

in Sweden with his team. Quite an

achievement for a young

#### Best team: Bears basketball

**Rebecca:** Bears basketball because they got gold in CanWest and national silver. But I thought a close second was Pandas hockey because even though they lost 10 of their regular season games, they were pretty much all in overtime and the three that weren't were lost by one point each.

**Atta:** I have Golden Bears basketball as best men's team, but I have women's volleyball as the best women's team because they finished second nationally and they won CanWest.

Andrew: I was going to say Pandas volleyball as well. Looking at their record they seemed to have a stronger regular season than Bears basketball did, although both were 14-6 and they were comparable in playoffs and nationals.

## Most improved team: Swimming

**Rebecca:** For me, Pandas field hockey are most improved because last year they didn't go to nationals and this year they did. Last year their record was 1–11, but this year it was 4–6–2 in the regular season — and then they made it into nationals.

**Andrew:** I think the swim team is one that's been improving and will continue to in the future. For the longest time it's been UBC and U of C as the top two teams in CanWest, and the Bears were kind of a joke. But this year they finished second ahead of Calgary in CanWest and did fairly well at nationals. They have a couple of strong swimmers, especially on the men's side. Considering where they were even a few years ago, I think they've really improved. **Atta:** If you're looking at strictly team record or team performance from last year to this year, I would say Golden Bears basketball because they finished fourth in Canada West and then went on to win runner-up in nationals and they hadn't been to the final

#### Athlete of the Year: Jordan Baker (Bears basketball)

eight in four years.

Andrew: It's a tough call. I think maybe Jordan Baker because he was top 10 in CanWest in scoring, rebounding, assists — he just did everything for that team and led them pretty far. I'm also tempted to go with Real Cyr because he had a fantastic year as well and

#### Rookie of the Year: Joe Byram (Swimming)

**Rebecca:** Joe Byram, in swimming, because he broke two of the team's records, he broke a provincial record and he got two silvers at nationals, plus a bronze when he was swimming with the other guys on the relay team.

**Atta:** On the women's side I have Alena Omelchenko. It's kind of not fair because she's like 25, but she did help lead that team to the finals and was consistently leading her team in points. If anything she's the best international player. On the male side I have Joe Byram as well.

#### Grad of the Year: Daniel Ferguson (Bears basketball)

**Atta:** Daniel Ferguson tore it up at nationals. He had 79 points in three games and missed

only a few free throws out of 22. But for women I'd say Heather Lund in soccer. She led her team to nationals as well as doing well in Canada West. She was averaging more

than

three shots per game and was number two for goals. She's a really strong player.

**Andrew:** Erin Miller. When you look at the swim team, the women's side didn't finish quite as strong as the men's side at CanWest or nationals, but she consistently did very strong on the team with three golds and three bronze medals at CanWest finals.

#### HONOURABLE MENTIONS

#### Best dressed coach:

Howie Draper (Pandas hockey) and his assistant coaches, hands down.

#### Coolest player name:

KK Sonuga (Bears football), Real Cyr (Bears hockey) and Todd Bergen-Henengouwen (Bears basketball, because he sounds like a lawyer.)

#### Best home team: Bears basketball

Bears basketball had no losses at home.

#### Best road warriors: Bears soccer

Bears soccer were undefeated on the road.

#### Club that should be a varsity team:

Ringette. They did us proud and won gold at nationals.

#### **Best quote:**

"Close only counts in hand grenades and horse shoes." — Howie Draper, Pandas hockey coach.

#### Lamest excuse for losing:

"...The team was worrying about officials, worrying about what the other team was saying to them, was injure." — Jeff Stead, Bears footballl coach

#### Greatest U of A defeats:

On Oct. 29, the Saskatchewan Huskies football team beat the Bears 67-3, just two weeks after the Bears lost to Calgary 61–7 on Oct. 2, which was the biggest defeat in Golden Bears history.

The U of L Pronghorns beat the U of A in rugby finals 41–0 on Oct. 23. The other time we played them was on Oct. 2 and they beat us 52–7.

#### Biggest points differential: Pandas basketball

Pandas basketball beat Brandon 94–33 on Feb. 11 — almost triply outscoring the opponent.

#### OMG moment: Bears football

**Rebecca:** Mine is when Bears football got two wins by default. UBC had to forfeit all wins because of playing an ineligible player.

**Andrew:** They pulled a victory from the jaws of defeat. To not have that shameful blight on their record forever. In our hearts we know they lost every game, but years from now when people look at the record they'll see 2–6 not 0–8.

**Atta:** I can't disagree with that. It's not a blemish on the record. It's the easiest two wins you can get.

#### WTF moment: Pandas field hockey

**Rebecca:** Pandas field hockey getting cut. That was a total blow to them — they didn't see that coming.

Andrew: Everything about the way Ian Reade went about doing it and the way he broke the news to the team and not giving them proper time to really make a case for themselves and do anything about it.

**Atta:** I agree, the way it was handled could have been better.

**Rebecca:** Another one was, when Manitoba won in overtime against Bears hockey. It should have been the Bears win but they got called on too many men on the ice.

#### Most popular team: Bears hockey

**Rebecca:** Definitely Bears hockey. Every time you go to the games it's so Canada. We're in a hockey rink and this is what we do.

Atta: In terms of fan support it is Bears hockey, but if you're looking at strictly numbers Bears football drew the most for men's and basketball drew the most for women's.

**Andrew:** In terms of atmosphere and quality of play I'd go with Bears hockey. It has the best crowd and always a really high level of hockey going on.

#### Best win: Wrestling

**Rebecca:** For me it's, the wrestling team because the women won their first ever gold at Canada West this year. However, they did win nationals last year, but they've never won Canada West. And the Bears got silver at CanWest. And when Pandas volleyball got their 700th team win earlier in the season, that was good too. And how Pandas volleyball finally defeated UBC in Canada West finals because UBC has won the last three years in a row and the Pandas won before that, but then they lost to UBC at nationals. So it's like finally they defeated their enemy and then to lose to them again.

#### Coach of the Year: Bill Humby (Swimming)

Andrew: Bill Humby. They've gotten consistently better since he joined the program. It's finally starting to pay off with results. This year the Bears got silver at CanWest and fourth at nationals, which is a jump from last year.

Atta: Laurie Eisler with Pandas volleyball because she has been around for so long and to get the team to finally beat UBC after they'd won for so many years. And Greg Francis with Bears basketball leading his team to the nationals.

#### Watch out for: Brendan Yao (Bears volleyball) and Alannah Kedra (Pandas hockey)

Rebecca: I think that Brendan Yao in Bears volleyball will be quite a player next year. He's a rookie this year and when he finally got some game time because the other libero was out injured, for two nights in a row he got 13 digs each night, which helped his team to win those games. As well, I'd watch out for Alannah Kedra in hockey because she really came out of her shell in the last two months of and kept nailing in the goals.



AIR TIME Best photo of the year is this shot of Daniel Ferguson about to make a basket in a matchup against the UBC-O Heat in January. FILE PHOTO MATTHIR.







#### Help wanted: hockey Bears search for new head coach

As Stan Marple fills new spot as Golden Bears general manager and works on filling the stands, a new bench boss needed

#### Rebecca Medel

SPORTS EDITOR

There are some changes coming to the Golden Bears hockey program for next season and fans are going to want to be first in line to see them in action.

Head coach Stan Marple has recently been named the Bears' first general manager and one of his first orders of business is to figure out how to drum up more fan support and increase revenue for the team.

"I remember when I played for the U of A in the late '80s and early '90s, we used to get probably close to 2,000 fans per game. We get that (now) on occasion if it's a playoff game," Marple said. He has hopes of generating that kind of fan base once again within the next few years.

"I think awareness is huge, especially for younger students. We could have almost like a tailgate party atmosphere before a couple games early in the year with barbeques and stuff like that where people can meet and get to know each other and then come and watch a Bears game for a couple of hours."

This past season was Marple's first as head coach of the Bears, moving up after having worked as an assistant coach. But his 13 years of experience as both head coach and general manager for three teams in the English Premier League from 1995 onwards provided a great resume to qualify him for this new post as general manager with the Bears.

Giving up the role of head coach was tough, but Marple said he knows that stepping into this new role is the right move for the program.

"If this is the best way that I can serve the program in the immediate future, then I'm going to do it and give it everything I've got," Marple said. "I think it will be very advantageous for the new head coach to not have to worry about any aspect of

the organization of the team. Everything from travel to fundraising to public events and that sort of thing — that's all going to be taken care of by me."

Key for the GM will be trying to generate new revenue streams, increasing gate attendance, increasing sponsorship and creating more awareness about the Golden Bears hockey team. Marple will be responsible for the operating budget and helping the new head coach with scouting and recruitment.

So with Marple busy with a long list of to-dos, the new head coach will be able to spend his or her time focusing on developing players into

an even more competitive squad.

The Bears' regular season ended at 20–6–2, just missing playoff gold by an overtime Saskatchewan Huskies goal. But the program is strong and has won Canada West finals for the previous 10 years, except in 2007, and recent national gold in 2005, 2006 and 2008.

The head coach position hasn't been filled yet and will be officially posted this week.

"We'll leave it open until we get the person who we feel is the right guy for the job. There'll be no shortage of applicants, I'm sure, and it's very important we get that part right," Marple said.

#### Para-athletics looking for athletes to compete in track and field

**Andrew Jeffrey** 

SPORTS STAFF - @ANDREW\_JEFFREY

Track and field events require extreme muscle strength, speed and endurance. After all, the original Olympians competing in these events were the greatest of athletes.

To compete in the same events without the use of body parts that other athletes often take for granted shows the determination of paralympic athletes. On Saturday, the University of Alberta was the site of a para-athletic trial that tested the waters to see if there were enough interested athletes to begin a paraathletic program in Edmonton.

Athletes were invited to try out throwing, running, long jump and wheelchair racing. Ten participants put their skills to the test. It was a chance for the Paralympic Sports Association (PSA), the local non-profit organization that hosted the event, to gauge interest in starting an eight-week para-athletic program in Edmonton.

"What we would love to do as a goal for the program is have it run once a week. ... It would be all about making (the program) fun and non-intimidating," PSA program coordinator Suzanne Harrison said.

"Then from there, if any of the participants really excelled or wanted to excel, at that point we get them in contact with para-athletics coaches where they could be working one-on-one, training harder. Our mandate is not to produce paralympic athletes — it's to get people with disabilities active. We could help facilitate people to get to a

more elite level, but that wouldn't be the goal of our program."

A program like this has not been present in Edmonton for quite some time. It's been about 10 years, actually, largely due to a lack of communication and the unfortunate fact that when good coaches move on, programs often fall apart. A recent visit from a para-athletics clinic motivated Harrison and the PSA to give it another try.

"A bunch of our disability organizations in the city came together and thought maybe this would be a good thing and maybe this would be something we could get members out to see if they enjoy it," Harrison said.

The biggest problem facing the PSA's attempts at creating the program lies in the lack of awareness

that these programs exist and lack of communication in spreading the word. Para-athletes may not be aware of the wide range of events available to them. To Harrison, this program would be incredibly helpful in encouraging more para-athletic competition in Edmonton through encouraging para-athletic activity.

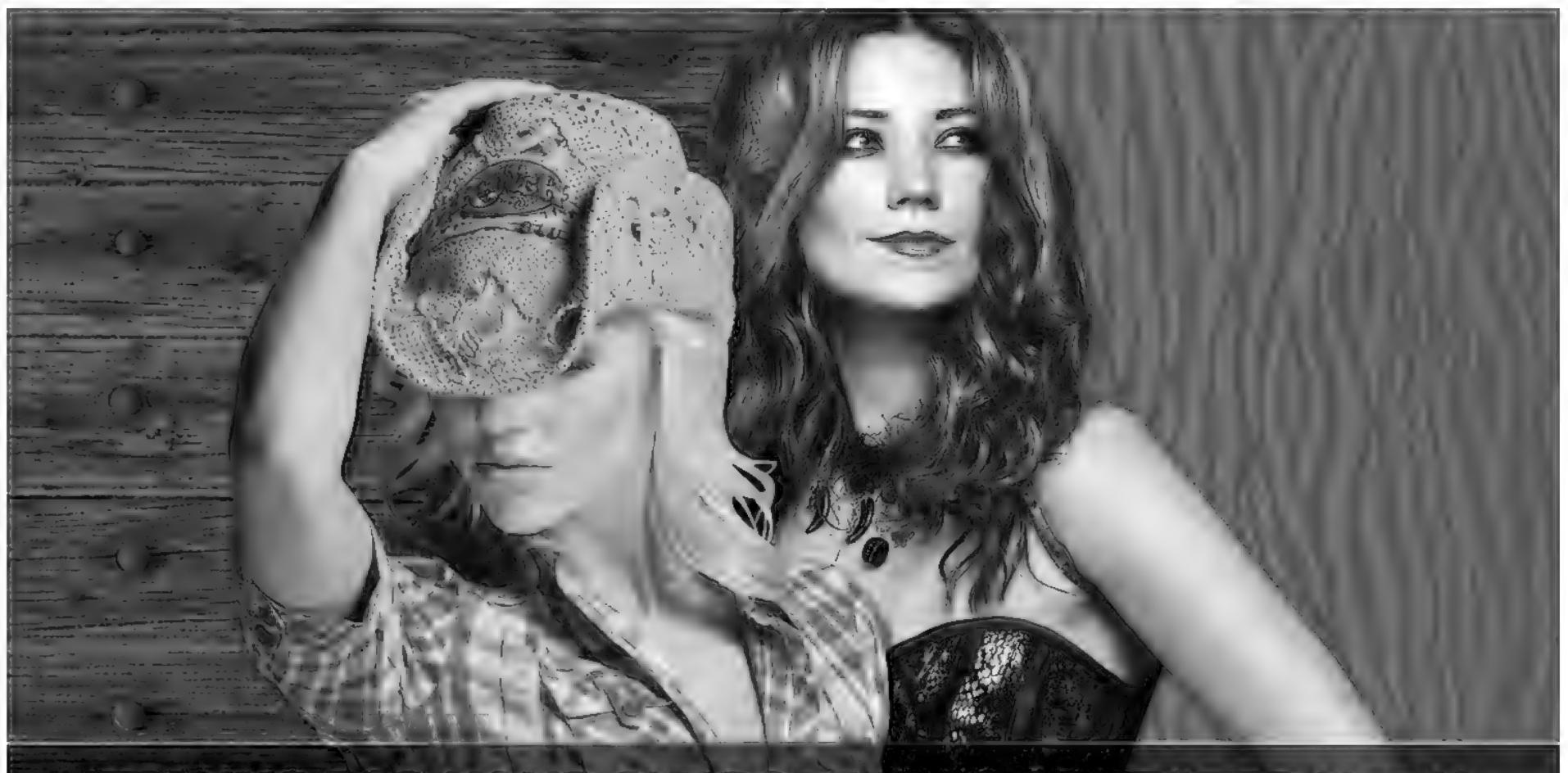
"We are very much grassroots associated. We're all about recreation for everybody no matter what your ability — your able-bodied sibling can come along too. Just be active. Be socially active in the community. That's our main focus and mission."

Bears and Pandas track and field coach Georgette Reed, who has prior experience as a para-athletics coach for Canadian athletes at the paralympic games, was a major influence in convincing the U of A to provide the space and other university staff and athletes were on hand to teach the necessary skill sets.

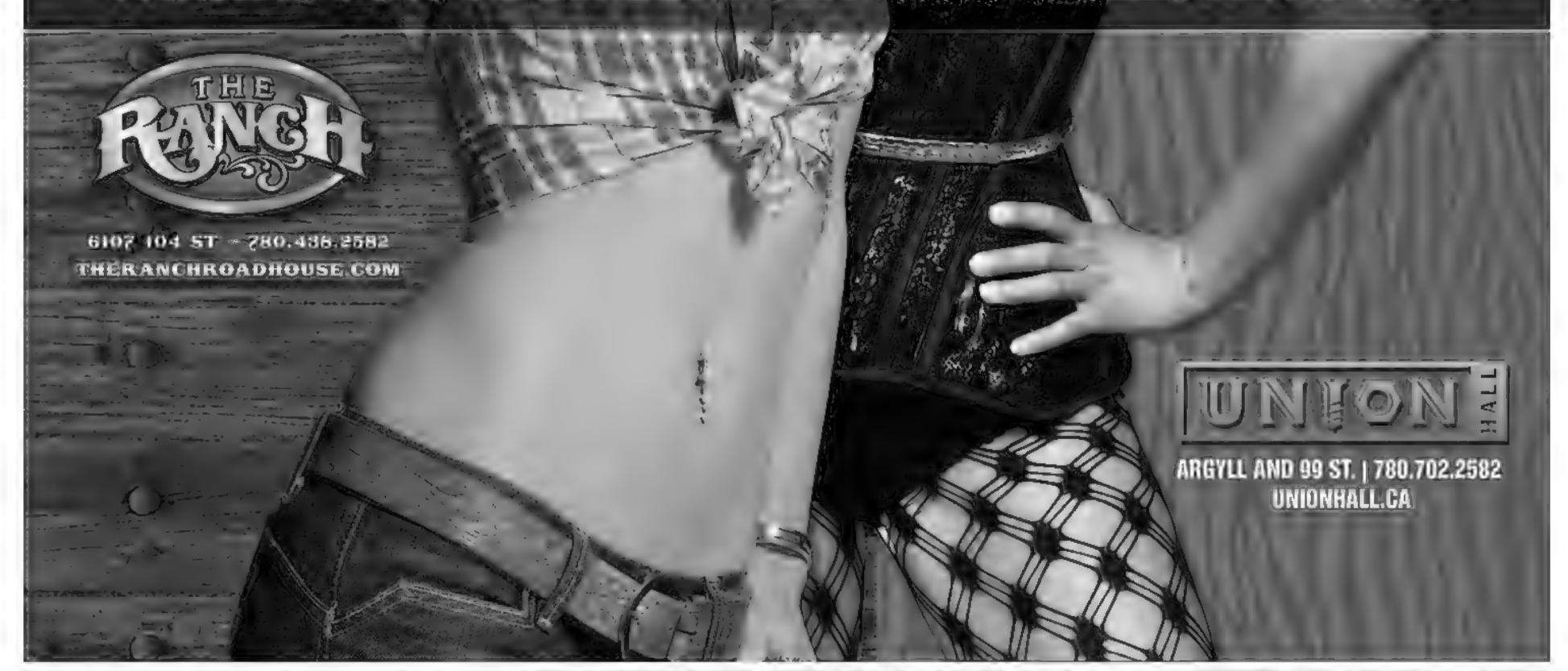
The relationship with the U of A is one that the PSA hopes they can continue with. For now, though, booking the Butterdome for weekly events could be too costly, but with the potential success of the program and with help from Reed, Harrison hopes things will work out.

"Hopefully (there will be) a partnership where the facility could be used at a cost we can afford. A big thing with PSA is making sure it's affordable and cost isn't a barrier to be part of the program. We do a lot of subsidizing and make programs really inexpensive just so it's not a barrier," Harrison explained.





#### THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS SEMESTER UOFA!







decades, there's a provincial election in Alberta that's at least somewhat interesting — while every vote since the early '70s has been an almost foregone conclusion, there's finally some movement in the polls this year.

"Two weeks in it's unlike any election we've had in quite a while," said Dave Cournoyer, a political blogger who has been keeping a close eye on this year's election. "It's almost unheard of to not have the Tories leading, and (not to have the) almost predetermined outcome the Tories will get a majority."

Who is it nipping at their heels? The Wildrose Party has crept up in the polls in the first two weeks, sitting anywhere from near parity with the Tories to leading by large margins. Cournoyer said this is at least partially due to their messaging, focusing on a few main points to get through to the electorate.

"You can tell they have a lot of veteran campaigners who have experience with the federal conservatives," Cournoyer said.

Meanwhile, the PCs have been flubbing their message. It could be, according to Cournoyer, that a party that's held power for 41 years isn't used to having to push their message so hard. They also face problems getting across a centrist message; the Wildrose has an easier time with their ideologically-driven platform, while

the Tories are struggling to talk about pragmatism.

Cournoyer was quick to point out that it's difficult to say so early in the process what's going to happen with the results of the election. Most people don't start paying serious attention until two weeks to 10 days before the vote. In that time, the Tories could bounce back and the Liberals or NDP might also benefit from vote splitting between the two right-wing parties.

But it's undeniable that the massive climb the Wildrose Party has made, threatening to take a majority after winning only one seat in the last election. Jim Lightbody, Associate Chair of the department of political science at the U of A, says this is a result of problems with the PC party that go farther than the election.

With a change in the mood of the electorate as a result of the weak leadership of previous premier Ed Stelmach, the Wildrose are rising up to take advantage of the population's discontent. Lightbody says the conditions are ripe for a new party to form the government in the province.

"The Wildrose have people who have organizational skills and access to money, all led by Danielle Smith, who is a good communicator, very self-composed and quite smart," he said. "This time, the Wildrose have a candidate for premier, and have had candidates in ridings for a substantial period of time. They've got the ground game going, and the money is there too."

While the Wildrose Party may once have been considered a fringe group with policies that appealed to only small portions of the population, they may now be seen as a viable alternative to the PC government it seems the public no longer trusts.

Alberta may finally be sick of what Lightbody describes as the "old boys' Conservative club," fostering the same political climate in the province that's been present for years. Even though Alison Redford is a strong candidate for premier, the history of the Progressive Conservative Party is beginning to damage their chances at forming the government in a province that seems ready for something different.

"People will look at different policies that differentiate the parties, but the only issue in this campaign is whether this government should be entrusted with another four years," Lightbody said. "You might react on healthcare, I might react on electricity rates, but it seems we are agreed that this government can't do it. Governments lose, and this government has lost."

Even though the Tories have been trying to position themselves as a forward-thinking party with new ideas for the province, their current pitch to voters for another four-year mandate is struggling against criticism from the Wildrose.

"(The Conservatives) are promising everything they promised before," Lightbody said. "It is absolutely legitimate for another party to say, 'We're running to replace the government because they're not very good,' and pointing out how they see them not being very good."

But where are the Liberals and NDP in the race? While they continually poll around 10 to 15 per cent, predictions from the political polling blog

Three-Hundred-and-Eight.com show that the NDP could pick up six seats, with the Liberals potentially losing everything.

"The problem is the media focuses on the two front runners. They get all the publicity. The other parties are left trying to get into the newspapers and onto the news," said Doreen Barrie, a political scientist from the University of Calgary.

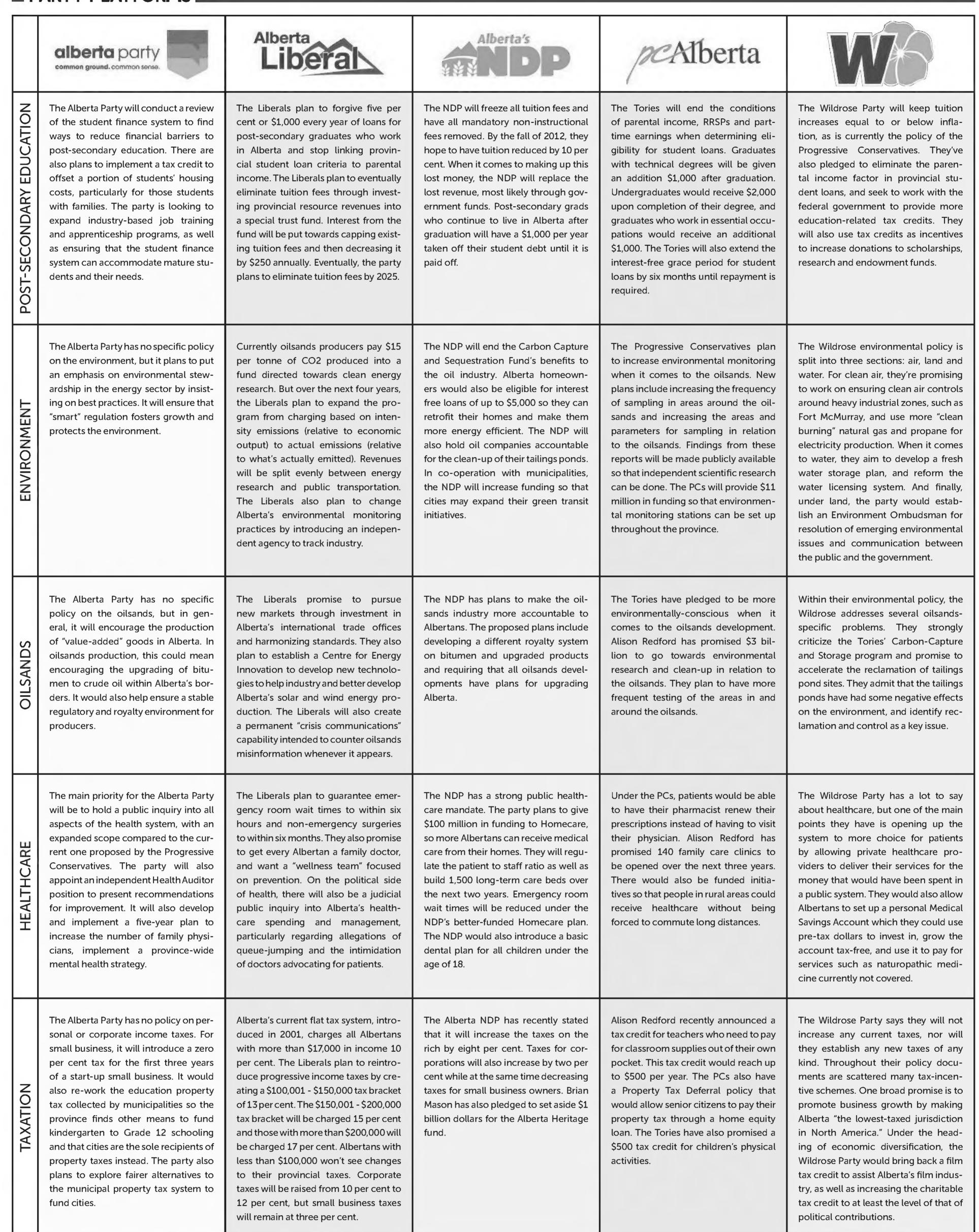
While the NDP or Liberals might sneak up the middle between a split PC and Wildrose vote in some ridings, they are not likely to win all that many seats. This is especially true in rural ridings, where Barrie said it is a dead heat between the two right-wing parties.

It's an odd position for the Liberals to be in. They have focused heavily on healthcare, which Cournoyer said has time and again been one of the leading issues for voters. But they haven't seen any bump in the polls for support. It could be, as Cournoyer outlined, that the Liberals are reeling from such frequent changes in leadership. Raj Sherman, the current Liberal leader, is the party's third top boss since the last election, when Kevin Taft stepped down.

"Opinion polls show healthcare is a top issue. They should be in a place to hone in on this issue," Cournoyer said.

Whatever happens on April 23, it will be an interesting race to the finish. Though it's hard to predict exactly what may happen, Cournoyer said we may have something unprecedented in Alberta's political history—a minority legislature. Then politics here would get really interesting.

#### ■ PARTY PLATFORMS



#### ■ FOR FIRST-TIME VOTERS

The Alberta government hasn't held a provincial election since 2008, so it's possible that this will be your first time voting for an MLA. The Gateway offers you some quick tidbits on everything you need to know on election day:

- Election day is Monday, April 23, 2012. Advance polls will also be open April 19-21.
- You're eligible to vote if you: • Are 18 years of age or older on voting day.
  - Are a Canadian citizen.
- Have been residing in Alberta for the six

**months** immediately preceding voting day.

- You'll be able to vote for one member of the Legislative Assembly running in your electoral division and three Senate nominees for the province.
- In order to vote, you must be a registered voter on the province's List of Electors. The Elections Alberta website (wtv.elections.ab.ca) accepted advanced registration until April 10. You can also register on voting day by taking an oath at the polls and showing either

government-issued identification, or two pieces of suitable identification, including a credit card and a student ID card.

- If you are temporarily living away from home in university accommodations and your family resides in Alberta, then the residence of your family members is considered your original residence, and you are eligible to be included on the List Electors in that electoral subdivision.
- If your family with whom you ordinarily reside

when not in university lives outside of Alberta, then the residence of your family is your original residence and you are not eligible to vote.

• If you will be away from your place of ordinary residence on voting day, you can request Elections Alberta to mail you a special ballot at your temporary residence. You can also vote in the advanced polls, with the dates listed above. Check the elections website for the nearest advanced polling station.

Source: wtv.elections.ab.ca

## Diversions

**Design & Production Editor** 

Ross Vincent

**Phone** 780.492.6663

Email

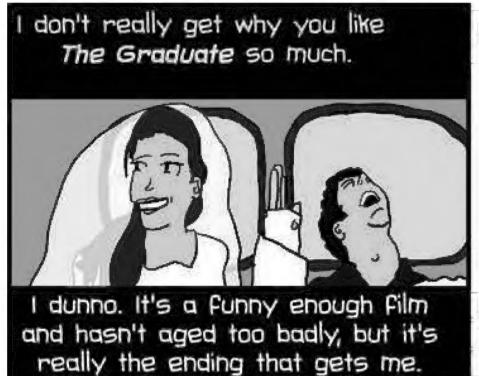
production@gateway.ualberta.ca

Volunteer

Comics meetings Mondays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

#### COMICS

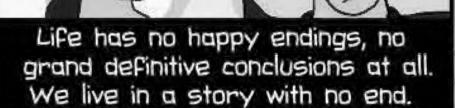
#### POP & ICE CREAM by Lance and Evan Mudryk

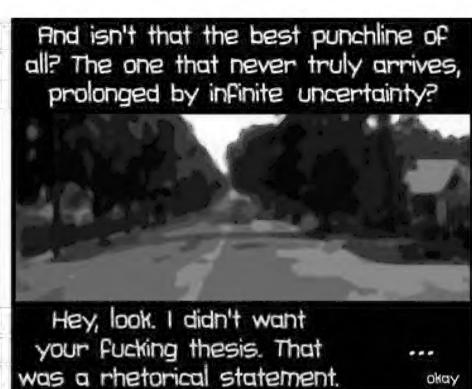




These turn to Frowns.



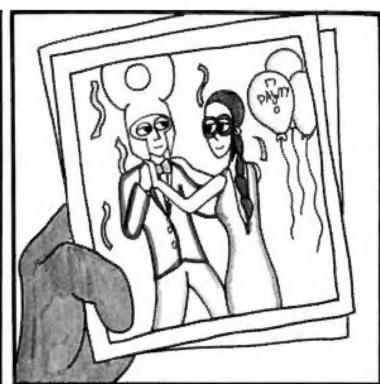




#### **METALEETO** by Ross Vincent







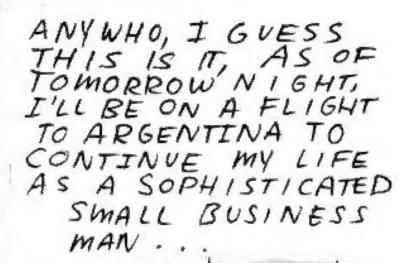




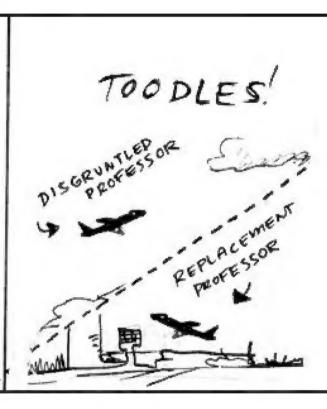
#### **DISGRUNTLED ARTS PROFESSOR ON THE NON-PHONE** by Kathryn Dutchak









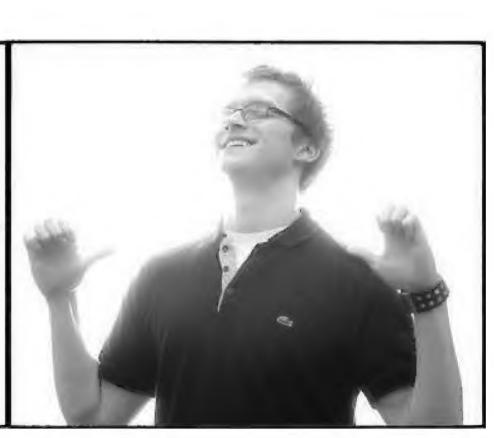


#### THE ADVENTURES OF RORY TIGHE by Gateway Staff



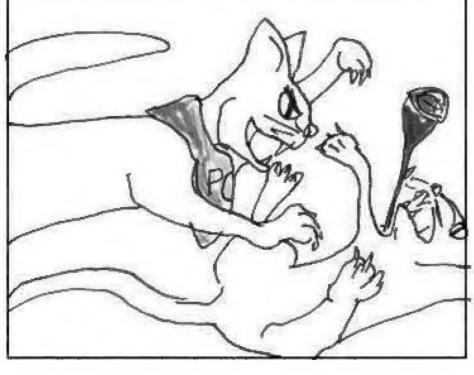


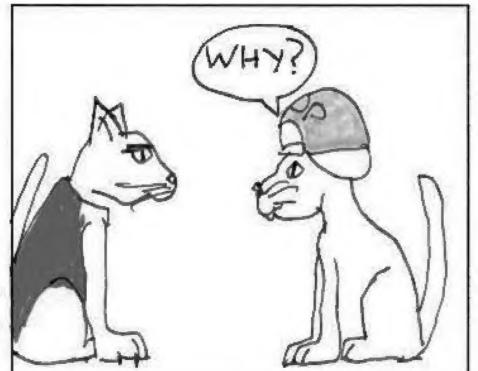


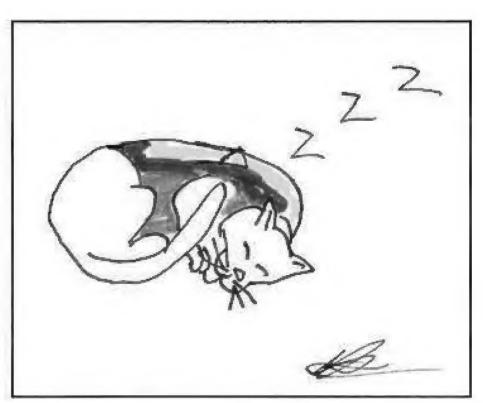


#### **ELECTION CATS** by Ryan Bromsgrove









#### crossword

Puzzle provided by BestCrosswords.com Used with permission.

#### Across

1. Just \_\_\_\_!

5. Ski cottage

10. Casino game

14. "Whip It" band

15. Early computer

16. Bedouin

17. Rat- \_\_\_\_

18. Goddess of love

19. Not \_\_\_\_ many words 20. Martini liquor

21. Hater of humankind

23. Gulp down 25. Follow

26. Diners

29. Audition

33. Serf

35. Nun wear

37. Layer 38. Garage sale sign

39. Renaissance fiddle

40. Amenable

41. Early hrs. 42. Closes

43. Be of one mind

44. Third sign of the zodiac

46. Prima ballerina

48. Comedian Carvey

50. Fix beforehand

53. Lottery 58. Leb. neighbor 59. New Rochelle college

60. Man with a van, perhaps

61. Currency of Turkey, and

formerly of Italy

62. Bender

63. Clarence's accuser 64. Roman poet

65. Additional

66. Bird homes 67. Shrivelled, without moisture

Down

1. Maxim

2. Take hold

3. Missionary zeal

4. Barracks bed

5. Hebrew tribe member

6. Addition column

7. Actress Merrill

8. Haggard

9. Glad all over

10. Justly 11. Cartoonist Peter

12. Coarse file

13. It's blown among the reeds

21. Mongrel dog

22. "Java" trumpeter

24. Neighbor of Cambodia

27. Greek fertility goddess,

flightless bird

28. Fine fur

30. Burdensome

31. Peter Fonda title role

32. Actress Daly

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33. Dutch name of The Hague

34. Salinger girl

36. Of the highest quality

39. Harness driver

40. Eyeball

42. Break, card game

43. Broadcasts

45. Think

47. Musical dramas

49. Compensate

51. Aluminum-bronze coin of Iceland 52. Commerce

53. Locale

54. Fleece 55. Grandson of Adam

56. Alamo rival

57. Etta of old comics

61. Acapulco article

To place a classified ad, please go to www.gatewayclassifieds.ca

#### CLASSIFIEDS

#### **FOR RENT**

Avail. mid Apr, 1 bedroom apart @Top Of Valley (Jasper & 121st).Renovated unit includes utilities and U/G parking. Adult building with laundry and pool and more. Non-smoke. \$850/mo, yearly lease. Dave or Kathy 780-477-6761, wisemank@telus. net

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Huge Rummage Sale Holy Trinity Anglican Church 101 St & 84 Ave NW, Edmonton FRI. APR. 27 6:00 - 9:00 pm SAT. APR. 28 9:30 - 1:00 pm Small Furniture; Clothing; Household; Books; Toys; Treasures. Something for Everyone! FREE

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#### **NEED TO BEAT**

10 DEAD HORSES WE STILL

1. Colten Yamagishi's campus musical

2. Tiny Cheema

3. Healthy food options on campus

4. Tighe puns 5. Emerson Csorba's hair

6. The Dekes

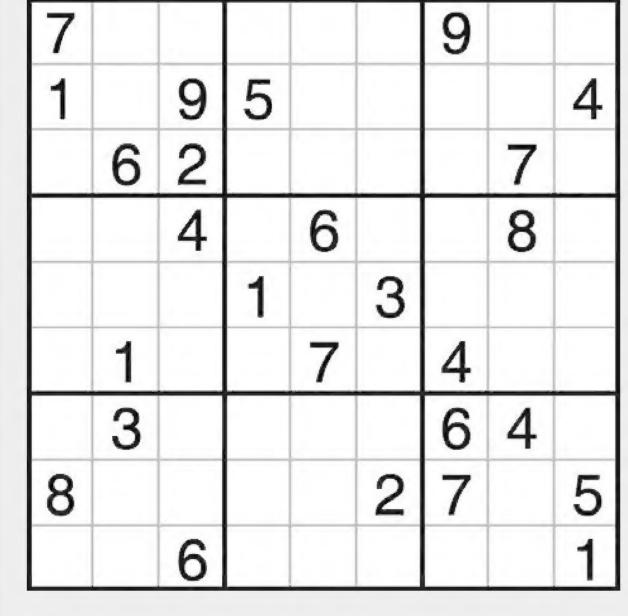
7. Sheepert

8. Lame Ducks 9. Craig Turner masks

10. Sudokus

#### sudoku

Triple Threat!



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